

Looking forward to 2001
But first, a quick look back at
news in the TG community.
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A big loss in the Supreme Court
2000 was the year that put the Boy
Scouts and gays on the radar screen.
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Class of 2000
Breaking up and dimpling
Chads: a year in review.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Gay rights attorney Paul Wotman dies

by Katie Szymanski

Paul Freud Wotman, a pioneering attorney for civil rights who was once referred to as "gay law's rising star," by the *San Francisco Examiner*, died of complications related to lymphoma in his San Francisco home on Christmas Day. He was 49.

Wotman, of the city's well-known law firm Wotman & Cloutier, made big headlines fighting for LGBT citizens and people with HIV who were victims of discrimination and abuse in housing, employment, and public services.

In 1991, he secured the largest amount ever awarded in a gay employment discrimination case when Shell Oil was ordered to pay \$5.3 million in back pay and damages to an employee who was fired for being an active homosexual. The case of Jeffrey Collins, a 19-year veteran of Shell who was terminated in 1985 after his secretary found a personal invitation to a safe sex party, proved to corporations and to the country that anti-gay discrimination was not only wrong, but expensive.

Wotman also took other high-profile cases through the years, representing a gay San Jose man who was brutally attacked in his own front yard by a teenage neighbor; suing various employers for same-sex sexual harassment; tackling Kaiser Permanente for wrongfully diagnosing and medically treating a gay man as if he had HIV; and even taking on Chef Julia Child for refusing to hire a gay man as the head of her culinary insti-

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Rick Gerharter



Arizona Representative Jim Kolbe

Kolbe (R-Arizona) addressed the Republican convention in Philadelphia, another first.

Log Cabin Republicans said they were encouraged with the progress made with the Bush campaign and endorsed the party nominee, something they had not always done. They acknowledged that the candidate and the party still had a long way to go on gay issues.

Dick Cheney's nomination as vice president brought broader public acknowledgment that his daughter **Mary** was a lesbian. The Human Rights Campaign said that both Cheneys had to publicly address

issues of gay rights during the campaign, but the pair managed to ignore that dictate. However, Mary's father's comments on gay marriage during the vice presidential debate were seen by many as the most thoughtful and supportive of the major national candidates.

Final resolution of post-election legal wrangling over votes in Florida touched off speculation over which openly gay people

might be appointed to positions within the Bush administration. Expectations were low, in part because the community has not identified many people with the appropriate political résumé.

Openly gay and lesbian candidates continued to break barriers in their quests for public office, being elected for the first time to state legislatures in Georgia and Michigan. Four lesbians now serve in the California Legislature, and three gay men in the Arizona Assembly. Gay bashing was down significantly in campaigns across the country, a sign that being gay or gay friendly has lost much of its sting.

Military

Gays did not disappear from the military nor from the headlines. The pair of soldiers who bludgeoned Private First Class **Barry Winchell** to death in July 1999 as he slept at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, were sentenced to long prison terms.

Tommy Lee Watkins Jr., president of his graduating class, resigned

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Cynthia Laird

A last look at Y2K: Part 2

by Katie Szymanski
and Terry Beswick

In last week's *Bay Area Reporter*, we began to say goodbye to Y2K by highlighting some of the year's top local news stories for the LGBT community. As the summer of 2000 unfolded, there were continued surprises as the community forged ahead in both protest and progress.

July

The month was christened by an announcement and prediction from the city's openly lesbian state representative, Assemblywoman Carole Migden. There would be no more domestic partnership legislation signed into law in the year 2000, according to Migden and LGBT advocates from California Alliance for Pride and Equality. Despite the passage of bills extending equal protections to LGBT families in both houses of the state Legislature, gay-themed legislation would be doomed to the cutting block of Governor Gray Davis's desk. The predictions, of course, later proved to be true.

Bay Area activists were a huge presence at the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa.

But back here at home, the HIV establishment was busy trying to explain exactly what happened when the Department of Public Health announced — then retracted — a near tripling of new HIV incidence in San

Francisco, to 900 cases, dubbed a "sub-Saharan rate" of infection. National news outlets ran with the story, always quick to point out that unsafe sex between gay men was on the rise. But in the pages of the *B.A.R.*, these same officials backpedaled on their original estimate, calling the announced number "unofficial" and their comments about infection rates "unfortunate." To this day, we still do not have an official estimate of the number of HIV cases in San Francisco, but a significant part of the increase, officials acknowledged, was the growing population of the city itself.

A young man collapsed on July 3 at the new Metropolitan Community Church youth shelter at 150 Eureka; **Curtis Oliver Jr.**, 25, was taken by ambulance to California Pacific Medical Center where his estranged mother made the decision to discontinue his life support. It was later determined that opiates were the cause of his death.

Supervisor Leslie Katz announced on July 10 that she would not seek re-election; the incumbent had planned to move to District 6 (South of Market) to avoid challenging



ing front-runner Supervisor Tom Ammiano in the Mission's District 9, but later, in the wake of her dot-com layoff, ironically discovered she could not afford the housing market that was created in part by the city's policies, many of which she championed.

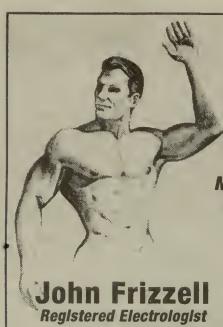
The **LGBT Community Center** hit yet another stumbling block when the National Park Service decided its design detracted too much from the original Fallon Building to qualify for historic tax credits.

In a typical yet nevertheless horrific situation, the California Department of Corrections admitted that a laboratory hired by the prison system had fabricated HIV and other test results; although officials had this knowledge for four years, many current prisoners and those out on parole have still not been informed that they need to be re-tested.

XY magazine protested the July 13 censorship of one of its stories by PlanetOut.com, claiming that the gay media giant was pandering to corporate sponsors. The censored story was an opinion piece by publisher Peter

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



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Serving up that holiday spirit



Daren Photography

Diners at Tenderloin Tessie's annual Christmas Day dinner enjoyed good food and fellowship Monday. Tom Basch, one of the organizers, said that 895 meals were served at the Unitarian Church in San Francisco. Members of the Grand Ducal Court provided each person with a gift bag containing personal items such as socks, and volunteers from Tenderloin Tessie's gave people high protein snacks. The hundreds of attendees enjoyed the event.

Vermont paves the way with civil unions law

by Bob Roehr

The Vermont Supreme Court gave gays and lesbians a great Christmas present last year, a 4-1 ruling on December 20, 1999 leading to legal recognition of their relationships.

The court majority rejected the argument that gays were entitled to a marriage license under existing law, though one judge thought that they were. It declared that the "common benefits clause" of the state constitution requires that gays share in the same benefits and protections under state law that heterosexuals enjoy.

The decision read in part, "Legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate and lasting human relationship is simply, when all is said and done, a recognition of our common humanity." The court ordered the state Legislature to solve the problem either by including gays under existing marriage law or by creating something of equal legal status.

The issue was a bitterly contentious one for the Legislature

and body politic of Vermont throughout the winter session. But in April a civil unions bill passed with the support of nearly all Democrats and a substantial number of Republicans. The law took effect in July. Polls showed that 43 percent of Vermonters approved of the bill and 52 percent disapproved.

Meanwhile in California, the campaign roared ahead on Proposition 22. That ballot initiative organized by social conservatives defined and restricted marriage to one man and one woman. It passed overwhelmingly with 61 percent of the vote in the March 7 primary.

The social right vowed to "Take Back Vermont," making repeal of civil unions a cornerstone of their efforts. The traditional civility of small town Vermont was rent with strife. When the ballots were counted, several Republicans who had supported civil unions for gays and lesbians went down to defeat, though the conservatives had less than full control of the Legislature. It looks like there will be no legislative challenge to civil unions over the next two years.

Democratic Governor Harold

Dean, a civil unions supporter, fended off a challenge by Republican Ruth Dwyer, who was vocal in her opposition to the measure. Dean managed to avoid a runoff election in a three-way contest by winning 52 percent of the vote.

In Nebraska, a ballot initiative that would amend the state constitution to define marriage as only between one man and one woman passed by more than 2 to 1. The wording was so broad that it likely precludes other types of things, including domestic partner benefits offered by private companies. The American Civil Liberties Union is challenging it in court.

Meanwhile in Vermont, gay and lesbian couples have been trickling to the altar and justices of the peace have their relationships recognized by law. An unofficial wire service count shows that nearly 1,500 civil unions have been performed since July.

About three-quarters of the couples have come from out of state. That will create a series of legal issues as the couples return home and test local jurisdictions' recognition of the Vermont statute. ▶

The gay movement and the gay market

by Bob Roehr

The controversy that surrounded the Millennium March on Washington from its inception did not abate as the day of the event drew near. And a post-mortem evaluation left a decidedly tarnished image that suggested this might have been the last such event for many years to come, perhaps forever.

Those on the left questioned the legitimacy as a top down activity orchestrated by the Human Rights Campaign. They claimed that past marches on Washington had been grassroots efforts that percolated up from and with participation of

local communities. Without such participation the event lacked legitimacy.

They said the prime reason for the event was to create a marketing event targeting the GLBT community as there was little political rationale or tie-in to pending legislation.

Others questioned the organizational ability of those nominally in charge of the event. The MMOW committee seemed to

confirm that evaluation through its inaction, closed financial records, series of changes in key personnel, and eventual subcontracting out of most of the planned activities.

The hope that corporations

would lay out big bucks to become sponsors of the event went largely unfulfilled. The biggest donors were the gay media outlets – both online and print – and most of their contributions were not cash but in-kind donations of promotional space. This provided further ammunition for those who called the MMOW merely a marketing opportunity.

HRC tried to insulate itself from the controversy when Executive Director Elizabeth Birch left the MMOW board, but at the same time it made sure that its staff and board members held key positions within the MMOW. It also set up a parallel event, the stadium benefit

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Kwanzaa celebration tonight at SF Library

by Cynthia Laird

Once again, local gay and African American groups invite interested people to attend the ninth annual Kwanzaa celebration tonight (Thursday, December 28) in the Koret Auditorium at the San Francisco Main Library. The program takes place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and is free.

Kwanzaa, first fruits of the harvest, is a celebration of community, family commitment, and blessings. Developed and

initiated more than 30 years ago by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, Kwanzaa is a spiritual, festive, and joyous African American celebration of the oneness and goodness of life that has grown in popularity across the country and internationally. Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration beginning December 26 and is centered around seven principles (Nguzo Saba) with emphasis on unity and recommitment to manifesting those principles in daily life.

This year's event is sponsored by the Black Gay Letters and Arts

Movement (B/GLAM), and the San Francisco Main Library's African American and James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian centers, with the support Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action. ▼

The Koret Auditorium is located in the lower level of the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street at Grove. The library is near the Civic Center BART and Muni station. For more information, call (415) 557-4277.

Pride Parade grand marshals sought

by Katie Szymanski

The San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee is looking for its next crop of community champions to serve as parade grand marshals in June 2001, so while making your New Year's resolutions this week, take the time to scan your past and present for nominations.

The grassroots effort to solicit names of those who deserve to be recognized signifies that the next gay holiday is officially under way, according to recently elected Pride President Cecilia Chung.

"This is the time to acknowledge the heroes and heroines from our community," said Chung. "It is our way to thank these people for their vital support and contribution to the LGBTQ community."

Members of the public are invited to mail, fax, or e-mail their nominations to the Pride office by January 31, 2001. Nominations must include a brief biography and contact information for the nominee in order to be valid. Pride members will review submissions and refine the list to ensure diversity, and then the public will be asked to vote in the categories for individual, organization, and celebrity grand marshals.

As the 31st anniversary of one of the largest LGBT holiday approaches, it is important that all voices are represented when the community chooses the celebration's honorees, and there's just a few weeks to make sure your heroes are given their due. To mail a nomination to the Pride Committee, send all relevant information to Grand Marshal Nominations, PMB 421, 1230 Market Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102. Nominations may also be faxed to (415) 864-5889, or e-mailed to info@sf-pride.org. ▼

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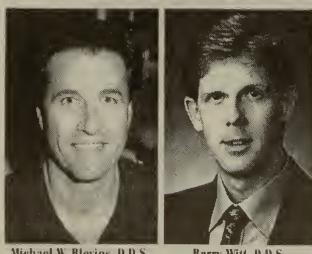
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Free HIV testing offered in Concord

by Katie Szymanski

People hold various beliefs about the significance of HIV in their lives, but it has been argued that it is always helpful to know your own status, especially if you can do so without identifying yourself. Beginning on January 8, the Contra Costa Public Health AIDS program will offer

this opportunity.

Free and anonymous HIV testing will be provided on a bimonthly basis for the next six months at the Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Suite 500, in downtown Concord. The program is presented in conjunction with a weekly Monday support group for HIV-positive men and their families, which starts on January 22.

The scheduled dates for anonymous testing are as follows: January 8 and 22; February 12 and 26; March 5 and 19; April 2 and 16; May 7 and 21; and June 4 and 18.

For more information on the testing program, call (925) 692-0090. More information about Contra Costa County's health services is available by calling (925) 313-6750, or (800) 479-9664. ▼

Canadian high court OKs porn restrictions

by Liz Highleyman

On December 15, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that restrictions governing the importation of pornography did not violate Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which grants rights similar to the U.S. Constitution.

However, the court also said that Canada Customs officials had improperly targeted gay material for seizure, and put the burden of proof on the government, rather than on defendants, to show that seized material was obscene.

The ruling was the final outcome of a long-running case that began in 1986 when Canada Customs seized copies of the Advocate magazine destined for Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium in

Vancouver, British Columbia. In the following years, more material with gay and sexual themes were seized and destroyed, including books by Susie Bright, Pat Califia, John Preston, and Jane Rule.

Little Sisters and the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association brought suit against Canada Customs, and a four-year battle ensued to have the case heard. A four-month trial began in October 1994, which featured several well-known North American writers, academics, publishers, and legal scholars speaking in favor of the plaintiffs.

In January 1996, the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled that Canada Customs had censored published materials in a manner that was "arbitrary, inconsistent and ... often just plain foolishness," and that customs had systematically used the obscenity law to harass sexual minorities. The government then brought the case before the British Columbia Court of Appeals, which ruled 2-1 that legislation allowing customs officials to ban sexual materials was justified, despite violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The dissenting judge in that case called the legislation overly vague.

The Supreme Court of Canada challenge began in March 2000. This month the justices ruled 6-3 to uphold the customs legislation. According to the ruling, "Parliament's legislative objective, which is to prevent Canada from being inundated with obscene material from abroad, is pressing and substantial, and customs procedures are rationally connected to that objective." The three dissenting judges recommended that the customs legislation be struck down entirely, saying that it resulted in "an appalling level of over-censorship."

Canadian obscenity law is based on the 1992 *Regina v. Butler* decision, which prohibits material that is found to be degrading to women. The law prohibits "...depictions or descriptions of sex with violence, submission, coercion, ridicule ... which appear to be associating sexual pleasure or gratification with pain and suffering."

Similar legislation has been put forth in the U.S. by Catharine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin. The first case prosecuted under the law involved a story of consensual lesbian SM that appeared in *Bad Attitude* magazine. ▼

Hawaii announces medical marijuana rules

by Liz Highleyman

Last Tuesday, December 19, Hawaii Governor Ben Cayetano (D) approved new rules regarding medical marijuana. The regulations are the result of a law passed by the state Legislature and signed by Cayetano this past June. The rules will take effect on December 28.

Under the new rules, certified patients will be allowed to possess up to three ounces of marijuana and grow up to seven cannabis

plants. Doctors will be able to get certification for patients who use marijuana for qualifying "debilitating" medical conditions such as cancer and AIDS.

Growing or possessing marijuana for other than medical purposes will remain illegal under Hawaiian state law, and all marijuana possession and use remains illegal under federal laws. According to Ted Sakai, director of Hawaii's Department of Public Safety, the state is "seeking to resolve the conflict" with the federal government.

Hawaii is the only state in which the legislature has passed a medicinal cannabis law. Eight states have passed medical marijuana laws by citizen initiatives, including California, which passed Proposition 215 in 1996, and Nevada and Colorado, which passed such laws in last month's election. ▼

Correction

Due to an editing error, the wrong byline was included in last week's AIDS Legal Referral Panel column, "Navigating the city's rent control maze." The writer was ALRP staff member Gabe Caswell. We regret the error.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

ACLU sues Southern California school district over gay book-banning

by David Batterson

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of two Orangeview Junior High School students. The suit asserts that free-speech rights were violated by the Anaheim Union High School District when it censored gay biographies in the school library. The district is located in Orange County, south of Los Angeles.

Ten books were removed by district officials from the Orangeview library in September. Those books have been held in the district's offices ever since. Orangeview's librarians want to get the books back. The biographies, written for youth 14 years and older, are entitled *Lives of Notable Gay Men and Lesbians*. The gays and lesbians written about in the series include tennis

star Martina Navratilova, economist John Maynard Keynes, and authors Willa Cather and James Baldwin.

"Unfortunately," said Orangeview librarian Chris Enterline, "I have heard Orangeview students using epithets such as 'faggot' as insults and using the expression, 'that's so gay,' to imply that an idea or action is foolish or ridiculous. Books such as *Lives of Notable Gay Men and Lesbians* can play an important role in helping to create a school environment in which homophobia, like racism and other biases, is addressed and challenged," Enterline added.

Martha Matthews, lawyer with the ACLU of Southern California, said, "We all know why these books have been banned. The books were banned because the words gay and lesbian appear on the front cover. The books were banned because they had a

positive statement to make to kids about gay and lesbian people, because gay or lesbian people – in the eyes of some – cannot possibly be role models or heroes." Matthews stressed that "the books were banned, in short, because of deep-seated prejudice."

Matthews is the ACLU's Bohnett attorney, a staff attorney position funded by philanthropist David Bohnett to advance LGBT civil rights. "At its core, this kind of suppression is anti-democratic and antithetical to the mission of a school and, particularly, of a school library, which is to encourage inquiry and broaden minds," said Matthews. "This kind of censorship is offensive, cowardly, and damaging to students."

The Orangeview library has over 15 other biographical series that profile the lives of African Americans, Latinos and Latinas,

Asian Americans, women, and persons with disabilities. Only the books about famous gays and lesbians were singled out and removed from the library by district officials.

"I have an older brother in high school who is gay," said plaintiff Daniel Doe [a pseudonym]. "I think that having books in the library about famous people who are gay or lesbian would help me and other students learn that gay people can be successful in life, and learn not to be prejudiced."

Public school students have rights under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the California Constitution. Schools can decide that library books are age-appropriate and have educational value. But they may not ban books because of viewpoints or ideas expressed in the books.

Under California law, schools

cannot discriminate against students, or tolerate student-against-student harassment, on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Two sentences in the district's "Spirit of Learning" mission statement are: "We believe in respect and appreciation of the commonality and diversity of individuals and groups. We believe in the values that support ethical decision-making, positive role modeling, and a commitment to professionalism."

According to the American Library Association, two children's books about gay and lesbian families are among the top 10 books banned in the U.S. In 1999, there were about 500 attempts to remove books from libraries on the grounds that they "promoted homosexuality," according to the ACLU. ▼

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Bob Ross**NEWS EDITOR**
Cynthia Laird**ARTS EDITOR**
Roberto Friedman**POLITICAL EDITOR**
Wayne Friday**ASSISTANT EDITORS**
Terry Beswick
Mark Mardon
Katie Szymanski**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Dan Aiello • Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler
 David Bianco • Erin Blackwell • John Blanco
 Dan Blue • Victoria A. Brownworth
 Philip Campbell • Chris Culwell • Richard Dodds
 Nisa Donnelly • Liz Highleyman • Brandon Judell
 Robert Julian • John F. Karr • Matthew Kennedy
 Simon LeVay • Daniel Mangin • Mister Marcus
 Michael McDonagh • Gary Morris • Jim Nawrocki
 Lois Pearlman • Deborah Peifer • Timothy Pfaff
 Jim Provenzano • Mary Richards
 Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr • Will Shank
 Marv. Shaw • Paul Thomson • Aimée Ts'ao
 Stephanie von Buchau • Helen Vozenilek
 Ed Walsh • Dick Walters

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN
Adrian Roberts**AD PRODUCTION & LAYOUT**
Scott King**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**
Mike Hardison**PHOTOGRAPHERS**
Jane Philomen Cleland • Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Marc Geller • Rick Gerhardt**ILLUSTRATORS & CARTOONISTS**
Ben Carlson • Fran Frisch**GENERAL MANAGER**
Michael M. Yamashita**ADVERTISING MANAGER**
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Ashes to ashes

President-elect George W. Bush's selection last week of outgoing Missouri Senator John Ashcroft to serve as his attorney general left us stunned and angry. Unfortunately, Bush hasn't even been sworn in as the nation's 43rd president, and already, the signs are unmistakable – he's no "compassionate conservative."

After choosing more moderate Republicans for several top administrative and cabinet posts – retired General Colin Powell for secretary of state, Paul O'Neill for treasury secretary, and New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman for administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency – Bush acquiesced to the howls of protest from the extreme conservative wing that they were unhappy with many of his selections; many of them said that the choices weren't conservative enough. "The trust is growing thin," religious broadcaster Pat Robertson declared last week on his *The 700 Club* television show. And, several social conservatives participated in a conference call with Bush's chief strategist, Karl Rove, presumably to voice their displeasure.

Suddenly, Bush was in Austin with Ashcroft by his side as the announcement was made. Bush called Ashcroft "a man of deep conviction." Well, we certainly don't agree with Ashcroft's convictions. After all, Ashcroft is one of the most conservative senators; that he lost his re-election bid last month to a dead man – the late Governor Mel Carnahan – made us happy at the thought that Ashcroft would soon be leaving the political stage. Not any more.

Instead, if confirmed by the Senate (which is highly likely though there will probably be some heated arguments), Ashcroft will preside over the Justice Department with a sorry record on civil rights. "With the possible exception of Jesse Helms, I do not believe anyone in the United States Senate has a more abysmal record on civil rights and civil liberties," lamented Ralph Neas, president of the People for the American Way. "This nomination is an insult to every person who is committed to our nation's promise of equal justice for all."

And that promise includes equal justice for gays and lesbians, as well as African Americans and other minority groups. Notably, while in the Senate, Ashcroft led the fight against Bill Lann Lee, who was nominated to head the Justice Department's Civil

Rights Division. Lee eventually took office on an interim appointment.

Ashcroft was also criticized during his unsuccessful re-election campaign for his role in defeating the nomination for a federal judgeship of Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White, the first black member of that state's highest court. Ashcroft said he opposed White because he considered his record to be soft on criminals; but, it was reported last week that several black leaders said they felt there were racist overtones in the defeat of White. While Ashcroft assailed White as the most anti-death penalty judge on the state Supreme Court, the record shows that White had voted to affirm the death penalty in 41 of the 59 cases that came before him. In 10 of the 18 cases in which White voted against imposing the death penalty, he was in the company of a unanimous court. That's hardly being "soft

on crime," unless you're using a dictionary written by Ashcroft himself.

So it looks as though progress in civil rights will be severely curtailed under Bush. The attorney general is one of the most important and high profile posts in an administration. The department plays a crucial role in nominations for federal judges and Supreme Court justices, not to mention enforcement of civil rights laws and other matters.

And look how Bush handled it: he bowed to the religious right and selected one of their stars, someone who has a zero percent voting record according to the Human Rights Campaign's scorecard and a 100 percent voting record according to the Christian Coalition. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out which way the country's going to move under Bush; with Ashcroft's nomination for attorney general, it has already lurched to the right. ▼

Editorial



Clinical trial funding needed now

by Peter L.T. Messina

After watching CBS' *60 Minutes* that aired on December 12, I am a man living with AIDS who is now more concerned with the humanity of people than I have ever been before. The television show told us of a man, Dr. Don Francis, who works with a very large corporation called Genentech, located in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has diligently been working on a vaccine for HIV/AIDS, called GP-120. He has been working on this vaccine for over 10 years and so far has a proven track record in developing this vaccine. Years ago he worked with Dr. Jonas Salk – a name we should all revere and hold close to our hearts, for this is the man who created the vaccine for polio. Francis knows the horrors of death inflicted by HIV, and he knows the miracles of hope that can happen with persistence and dedication. In my opinion, this is a man this world should stand up and applaud for the work he does. He believes he is very close to developing the vaccine which could cure millions upon millions of people throughout the world who can still – and probably will – become infected with the HIV disease.

It seems to me that the pharmaceutical companies as well as politicians from the Reagan administration to the present administration have done very little to fund this research which needs money – lots of money – to bring it to fruition. In the 1950s it was the number one priority to find a cure for polio which was crippling men, women, and children throughout the world, so why is it any less important to find a cure or vac-

cine for this dreaded disease of AIDS?

The National Institutes of Health has repeatedly refused to give money for clinical trials to begin for his work. I ask, "Why?" Is it because there's big money to be made in creating medications that only work sometimes or for short period of time or not at all? My monthly anti-viral medications cost in excess of \$1,845. Fortunately, I belong to an HMO, but what happens to me when my HMO decides to put a cap on what can be spent on me for these medications? The answer is simple: the HIV virus in my body will begin to replicate, and eventually ravage my entire body to the point that I will become susceptible to every possible infection and even ineligible for any future possible anti-viral drugs. I will develop cancers – not just one, but many – and after that, I will die from a horrific death that only AIDS and cancer can do to a person. I know, for I have watched numerous friends go through the dying process and I have lived to watch a former partner die. It is not pretty and it is not something anyone of any age should have to endure.

I am going to eventually die anyway, but why does the process have to be pushed up when I am at such a young age all because the people at NIH who have the ability to give money to these clinical trials – and don't? This will be the reason I die.

In just about every magazine you pick up today there is an advertisement showing people living longer while taking the current antiviral drugs. What you don't see, however, in the fine print on the next page of the

advertisement is the fact essentially stating that the drug does not cure HIV/AIDS and can in fact lead to terrible side effects that are so debilitating to some people, that this in itself will often bring upon complications resulting in death.

If there is the slightest possibility in this drug called GP-120, why wouldn't the government and the NIH put every resource they had into producing the clinical trials to allow me and every other person affected with HIV to live another 10, 20, or even 30 years?

How many of you can say you know someone personally or that you have a friend who knows someone who has AIDS?

Whether you are gay or straight, male or female, this can happen to you.

I live as a celibate man, because I know it's the only way to make sure this disease stops with me. My heart goes out to every person infected with this disease, because it doesn't just affect the person who has it, but it also often devastates co-workers, friends, and families of these people who live with HIV/AIDS.

I ask you America, do something about it. Write to the president of the United States, the administrators of NIH, your representatives in Congress, and your state legislators. After all, you put them in their jobs. Demand that they do something to request and allocate more money in the fight against this dreaded and dismal disease. Tell the NIH to start allocating money for human clinical trials for GP-120 and every other possible cure to eradicate this disease as we have done with previous worldwide diseases. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Shanti's program open

I am writing in response to a letter published in the December 14 issue of the *B.A.R.* from Mr. Leonard Maran regarding the activities and events program at Shanti. At Shanti we greatly appreciate and welcome the community's valuable input about our programs. We also acknowledge the importance of improving procedures to better serve our clients' needs.

The activities and events program is going through an exciting transition process to improve and expand our services to our clients. We have a new activities coordinator, Felicia Elizondo, and five newly recruited volunteers. We can assure all our clients that Felicia's activities team is working together to improve the current procedures and expand the program.

The activities and events program is open and offering services.

We urge all our clients to call the activities hotline at (415) 674-4744 for the current schedule of events. To become a Shanti activities client, please call (415) 674-4700 and ask for a care coordinator. We are happy to hear from you and assist with your participation in a variety of interesting local entertainment, cultural, and sporting events.

Jorge Guzman, Ph.D.
Associate Director of Client Services
Shanti

Thanks from Vermont

Thanks to our friends around the country for your incredible support this year for our work here in Vermont. Your letters, moral support, and generous contributions have sustained us through tough times, and have been vital to our success. Our work isn't over, but with your help, we've come a long way. We look forward to returning the favor.

Special thanks to the Gill Foundation and National Center for Lesbian Rights for your extraordinary generosity in supporting the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force's educational work. Vermonter for Civil Unions is deeply indebted to Californians for Fairness, the Human Rights Campaign, Log Cabin Republicans, and the Empire State Pride Agenda for helping us work to elect pro-civil union candidates.

Most important, thanks to Mary Bonauto and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders for joining with us in *Baker v. State*. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Beth Robinson and Susan Murray
Co-counsel, Baker v. State

A bad slice of lifestyle

After two episodes of *Queer as Folk* and a response to an e-mail from Ken Webster of Showtime, I'm left with the same impression about the show: "Huh?"

In Mr. Webster's response, he offers that, "*Queer as Folk* is the kind of groundbreaking, edgy original programming that viewers have come to expect from Showtime," and there's no arguing with that. We also can't argue that the Romans wanted more Christians for their hungry lions. And if you're wondering why that analogy, it's because I feel Showtime is serving up to the intolerant masses, already uninformed and fearful, a very bad slice of our lifestyle. Believe me, these folks are hungry to have their feelings validated, too. It's the just the sort of thing that seeds and fuels their intolerance.

Yes, we have sex anywhere, anytime. Yes, we do drugs. Yes, we make babies with lesbians (I did). Yes to all of it. But to wrap it up in a titillating package, label it as "programming," and present it as "honest" or "realistic" is a creative stretch of marketing imagination. I won't allow myself to be defined by these consensus stereotypes. It's difficult enough earning respect one person at a time, and shows like this aren't making that easier.

John Milovich
San Francisco

QAF insight

I read with interest Mr. Scott Sproat's letter in last week's *B.A.R.* about his offense at Showtime's new production *Queer as Folk*. Perhaps I can offer some insight.

The original *Queer as Folk* and its sequel told of the lives of gay men and their somewhat dysfunctional families in Manchester, England. In Manchester, a blue collar town to its core, there is a particular expression among the population "There's nowt so queer as folk." The approximate translation is "There is nothing so unusual as people." The word "queer" in this usage does not refer to homosexuals but to ordinary people. After the series had aired the author, Russell T. Davies sold rights to it to Showtime. They wisely decided to make very few changes to the format aside from setting it in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Showtime also decided to film the original British script as the series pilot. Showtime very obviously wants a great deal of viewership on this groundbreaking (in the U.S.) series and hopes to ride the British version's coattails to success. The decision to

keep the original name must have generated more than a few headaches at Showtime. If they change the title they risk losing the connection to the success of the British version. They obviously kept the title and are no doubt fully prepared for any reaction such as Mr. Sproat's. I find myself wondering how many of the big shots at Showtime even know what *Queer as Folk* means. I hope this version is as wildly successful as the original. Regardless of the name, it will sink or swim on its own merits.

Christopher Mitchell
Toronto, Canada

City preaches diversity, but ...

As the national epicenter of uncompromising support for affirmative action, San Francisco has become an interesting case to study following election day results.

The new Board of Supervisors has elected 10 men and one token woman. One token Asian in a city that is over half Asian American. One black, two Latinos, one of whom is whiter than I am. Of the 10 men, eight are whites or Euro-Americans though the white male population in this self-proclaimed center of the progressive left is approximately 25 percent. If my small calculator is correct, that is 65 percent. No lesbians. None.

The rest of our state seems more interested in diversity. As Wayne Friday points out: the state Legislature has 34 women, 27 Latinos, Asians increased to three, and there are four lesbians. Quite recently both houses of the Legislature were headed by Latinos and of course so is our lieutenant governorship. We have two excellent women as U.S. senators.

Ironically, even George W. Bush's new cabinet appointments have more racial and gender diversity than the city that preaches affirmative action to all.

This, from the city that wants to discriminate against qualified kids at Cal and Lowell High because of their race (i.e. Chinese Americans). All SF needs next is a white male mayor, I guess.

Armand Boulay
Berkeley, California

You are all doomed

After reading the cheery HIV article by Jeff Getty, I suspect the only thing for an HIV patient to do for the holidays is a quiet New Year's alone with an inviting cup of hemlock.

My God, I thought hip replacements were routinely done these days, and not necessarily related to HIV. Angela Lansbury, Liz Taylor, and Liza Minnelli have all had them, and to my knowledge they are not taking HIV medications.

And heart problems? I have friends who have had open heart surgery, and nary a one has the dread virus and therefore are not on HIV medications.

Fat redistribution? Wait until you hit 60 and see your ass fall off the planet, your waist size increase, and your legs look like flamingos. It's called "old age" baby, and if you are fortunate enough to get there, it is what is in store for all of you. Take a good gander at actor Michael Douglas, not yet 60, and looking like an apple doll, or Billy Bob Thornton, who has become the male version of Calista Flockhart. Not one case of HIV here.

Mr. Getty forgot to mention that if the drugs don't kill you, and by chance the virus doesn't kill you off, then you can count on the horrible air we are breathing daily in the Bay Area, or the food we eat with relish, slathered with heart-stopping fats, or the bad water we get through our pipes, laden with either asbestos or lead or both if you are lucky. You are all doomed.

As for me, I am turning up my furnace to 70, despite the PG&E rate bamboozle, and with any good fortune at all, enjoying a very quiet and peaceful extended nap.

Gordon Salter
San Francisco

Thanks for the support

Thank you to Bob Ross, publisher of the *B.A.R.* His consistent support of Dolores Street Community Services has provided housing services for some of our community's most overlooked members: San Francisco's homeless working poor and formerly homeless men and women living with AIDS.

Every day DSCS offers hope and dignity to over 130 people through the following programs: the Dolores Housing Program, which consists of four safe and clean shelters housing 120 homeless, primarily Latino, working men; the Richard M. Cohen Residence, an award-winning 10-bed licensed 24-hour care assisted living residence for people with AIDS; and the very busy Dolores Community Center, which provides the city's only needle exchange program in a woman-safe space, a weekly medical clinic for street youth, and 12-step support.

We rely on our major donors to make the services of DSCS possible for those individuals who would otherwise be without housing and support. Thank you Bob Ross for giving generously to our programs.

Bob Nelson, Executive Director
Dolores Street Community Services

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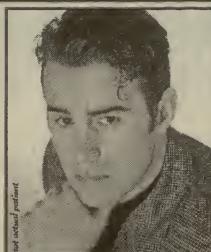
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Sweet homophobes and conflicted lefties

by Dale Carpenter

In 2000, many developments affected gay life in America: the election, Vermont civil unions, the Boy Scouts controversy, the Millennium March on Washington, and much more. So much happened that it was hard to find time to write about a host of other matters deserving attention. Here are five subjects that might have made good columns, but that I just couldn't fit in.

1. *Natural homosexuals*. Two new studies supported the idea that homosexuality is unchosen. In one, researchers determined that gays are more likely to be left-handed than heterosexuals, a finding they said indicates sexual orientation may be set at birth. Another study documented differences in brain responses of homosexuals and heterosexuals to sound. These researchers concluded gay women process sound in a "masculinized" way (that is, more like straight men than straight women); gay men do so in a "hyper-masculinized" way. The researchers said this added to the growing body of evidence that homosexuality is not a "social-political choice."

To the extent studies like these suggest homosexual orientation isn't chosen, they may help persuade some gay-rights skeptics. But societies understandably disfavor even unchosen behavior considered harmful. So there'll likely be no scientific bullet for the social and legal barriers gays face. We still have to convince the country that, as pioneering gay advocate Frank Kameny audaciously put it, gay is good.

2. *Sweet homophobes*. Not long ago a study found that gay porn sexually arouses men with strongly anti-gay views. Hold that thought for a moment.

This year John Paulk, a prominent leader in the ex-gay movement, was caught chatting up patrons in Mr. P's, a rather frisky gay bar in Washington, D.C. Paulk explained that he had only stopped in to use the bathroom, but was less forthcoming about why he stayed for almost an hour.

Mr. Paulk undoubtedly has a ready heterosexual explanation for his whereabouts. Still, one wonders, is there an anti-gay leader in America who doesn't have a little sugar in his pants?

3. *Venomous rappers*. The most misogynist, racist, and anti-gay class of music in the country, rap has branched out from its African

American origins to appeal to droves of unaccountably gay, suburban white teenagers. Their messiah this year was the white rapper Eminem, whose *Marshall Mathers LP* album had the second-highest sales debut ever. The album got rave reviews for its reputed originality and articulateness.

Here's one original and articulate selection from Eminem's latest work: "You faggots keep egging me on/Till I have you at knifepoint/ Then you beg me to stop." Asked about the constant references to "faggots" in his lyrics, Eminem explained to *Rolling Stone* that "faggot" to me doesn't necessarily mean gay people. "Faggot" to me just means ... taking away your manhood. You're a sissy." So Eminem only hates effeminate men, which must sound comforting to those with hyper-masculinized hearing.

Eminem's primitive messages and rhymes appeal to the group — young men — most likely to prey on

To the extent studies like these suggest homosexual orientation isn't chosen, they may help persuade some gay-rights skeptics. But societies understandably disfavor even unchosen behavior considered harmful. So there'll likely be no scientific bullet for the social and legal barriers gays face.

gays. It may yet take a nasty gay-bashing by one of them to get critics to stop fawning over this puerile stuff. We shouldn't ban hate speech by people like Eminem, but we should shame these knuckle-draggers back into their caves.

4. *Anguished Protestants*. It took Christianity centuries to deal with issues like slavery and the status of women. The old views on these subjects, now an embarrassment, once enjoyed universal support among Protestant denominations.

Today these same churches are riven by homosexuality. This year the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians confronted issues ranging from same-sex marriage to the ordination of openly gay clergy.

Despite the vaunted wall of separation of church and state, all

most every important social struggle in America comes down to a fight for souls. Religious faith gave sustenance to both pro-slavery and abolitionist causes, to both segregationist and integrationist groups. It is arming both sides in the culture war over gay equality, too.

5. *Conflicted lefties*. Progressives say they believe in expanding civil rights for everybody. They forget that expanding civil rights for one group may erode the civil rights of another. This year's Boy Scouts case — pitting one group's interest in equality against another's freedom of association — is the most prominent recent example of that.

But consider a less well-known case. In Canada this year, a male-to-female transsexual charged discrimination against a rape crisis counseling center for refusing to grant her a volunteer position dealing with rape victims. Concerned about inflicting further emotional trauma on its clients, the center prohibits men and transgendered women from counseling rape victims. Despite the

center's plea that the litigation was draining scarce resources from its efforts to help rape victims, a judge declined to dismiss the lawsuit.

As the number and scope of anti-discrimination laws expand, other cases will test their reach. Under what circumstances should the law be able to command people not to discriminate? The left's answer so far — "all" — seems increasingly unbalanced and, dare I say it, insensitive.

Of course, what would I know about the left? ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.



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POLITICS

George W. Bush's questionable presidency

by Wayne Friday

As the nation's popular vote lead for Vice President Al Gore continues to pile up — now nearing the 550,000 mark — George W. Bush, the Republican "winner" of the November 7 national election, prepares to become the country's 43rd president.

Never mind that the current post-election inspection of Florida's ballots is expected to eventually confirm that Gore won that banana republic by possibly as much as 35,000 votes, because it has now been revealed (and confirmed) that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra

Day O'Connor was so upset during an election night party in D.C. when she heard erroneous reports that Florida had been declared by the networks for Gore that she angrily declared "this is terrible," because with Gore having already won other key states like Michigan and Pennsylvania, the election was, according to Justice O'Connor, "over."

O'Connor was said to have been so angry that she stormed from the room leaving her husband John to hastily explain to others why the lifelong Republican was so upset at the thought of a Democrat winning the election. Needless to say, O'Connor, 70, the former Republican majority leader of the Arizona Senate, got her revenge weeks later as she was among the five conservative Supreme Court justices who voted in favor of ending the Florida recount, a decision that effectively quashed Gore's chances at overcoming Bush in the battle for Florida, and the White House.

No doubt about it that Gore and his campaign operatives were not only eventually done in by a mere five-vote majority of the high court — all of whom were appointed by Republican presidents, it must be pointed out — but Gore was also badly outdone in Florida, a state that is destined to be the butt of jokes for decades, and was, just incidentally, controlled by Bush's brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush from the Statehouse to the county courthouses. The *New York Times* revealed last week that from the very morning after the November 7 election, Jeb Bush took an intense and passionate interest in the battle to save Florida for George W., notwithstanding Jeb's highly-touted effort to strike a low public profile.

Brother Jeb immediately set about offering detailed guidance to his brother's array of attorneys on how to navigate the political thicket that was South Florida, even providing important information and insight about numerous local county officials who would eventually determine his brother's political future. The *Times* reported that Jeb Bush enlisted dozens of Republican political operatives to move into the disputed counties in the days immediately after the election and within 24 hours after Election Day, six of the Florida governor's top political aides took unpaid leave to join the effort against

Gore, dealing with everything from briefing the press to further briefing George W. Bush's many out-of-town lawyers on Florida election law.

Though Jeb Bush, in his annual year-end press conference with Florida political reporters, claimed only last week (after the high court had already anointed George W.) that he had "tried hard" to detach himself from the massive Florida political effort that eventually gained the presidency for his brother, the reach of Jeb Bush and the Florida Republican Party connection all the way down to minor county party affiliates is now becoming clear.

The Florida Republican Party, run by an attorney friend of Jeb Bush's, was turned overnight into a full-fledged operative arm of the Bush effort; it turned over the entire three floor building of the state GOP headquarters to Bush's lawyers and strategists, led by James A. Baker, the former secretary of state, and Benjamin Ginsberg, the general counsel of the Bush campaign. However, in the end, despite everything, it was Justice O'Connor and the four other conservative high court members who, perhaps sensing that the Jeb Bush-led operation in Florida might eventually fail, swiftly overruled the Florida Supreme Court and promptly took control of the presidential election outcome. You know, I always believed it was the president who picked members of the U.S. Supreme Court, not the other way around.

Politics and people

As for the popular vote totals that Gore continues to rack up over Bush, the Republicans in Washington seem to be getting increasingly sensitive over the fact. When U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D) appeared on a recent CNN *Larry King Live* show with Virginia Senator John Warner (R), Feinstein mentioned during the hourlong show that while she fully recognized Bush as the next president, she also recognized the fact that Gore had decisively won the popular vote. Barn! Warner quickly hit the roof, berated Feinstein for even mentioning it, and the annoyed Warner remained in a snit through the rest of the show. Nope, you won't be hearing much from the Republicans that their man Bush was not the favorite of most American voters on Election Day.

And what about Ralph Nader, the ego-driven do-gooder from DuPont Circle whose Florida votes alone (more than 50,000) definitely helped make Bush the next president? Look for a smiling Nader at the January inaugural.

Miami newspapers report that Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris is still angling openly for a cushy ambassadorship as thanks for her underhanded antics in the Florida election snafu. Forget about it Katherine; with 50 of the U.S. Senate members now Democratic, you'll never see confirmation.

Meanwhile, President-elect Bush's controversial appointment

of outgoing Missouri Senator John Ashcroft, the anti-gay, pro-life conservative, to become attorney general is clearly a move to appease the Gary Bauer-Pat Robertson-Jesse Helms-Jerry Falwell wing of the Republican Party; these hate-mongers kept unusually quiet during the Bush campaign (anything to get the White House back for the Republicans) but it is now the payoff hour "big-time," and Bush, with the usual wink and a nod has started to deliver.

Locally, her friends say she wants to stay in politics, hence the reason for Oakland's former Assemblywoman Audie Bock, who once represented the East Bay's 16th District as a Green Party member, switching her party affiliation recently from independent to Democrat.

Former SF Supervisor Willie Kennedy, a member of the BART board since 1996, will become president of that board's directors for 2001.

To be sure, the recent supervisory runoffs were a political setback for Mayor Willie Brown since all but one of those he endorsed were defeated. However, this is not a mayor to be underestimated — not by a long shot. Brown is a very smart politician and all is not lost for this mayor.

Look for Tom Ammiano to be elected by the new Board of Supervisors as its president when they are sworn in come January 8.

And about those news stories having District Attorney Terence Hallinan escort actor Woody Harrelson on a tour of the city's cannabis clubs, can anyone be surprised? Meanwhile, the *Recorder* newspaper has Hallinan threatening to run again in three years. Hallinan: "I think this job is coming together (after five years, it should be, Mr. Hallinan) and I want to be in a position in three years to take a look at it and decide whether to run again." Kamala Harris, Bill Fazio, or a very popular judge I know of, might have something to say about Hallinan's political future in three years.

If Californians are looking for someone in particular to blame for the upcoming high electricity rates, look no further than state Senator Steve Peace (D-Chula Vista), the architect of the 1996 deregulation plan. Peace played a key role as the negotiator of the 1996 bill that scrapped 80 years of state control over California's three big utilities in favor of a marketplace in which private companies own power plants and competition set the price of electricity. Senator Peace will be termed out of office in 2002 and is reportedly thinking of running for California secretary of state; forget it fella.

And finally, my final "Quote of the Week" for this year, from U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, in his scathing dissent from the majority opinion of the court, which effectively named George W. Bush as the 43rd president of the United States. Stevens said: "We may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's presidential election, but the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law."

Happy New Year. ▼

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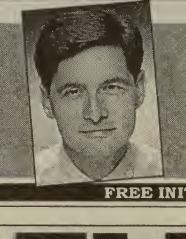
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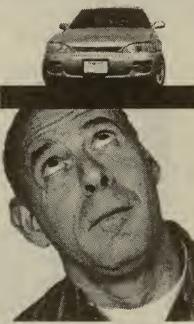
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Let's move on, shall we?

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I don't know about anyone else, but I'll be glad to move onto 2001.

This has been a difficult year for me. I've gone through a rather stressful move, some illness, and a few personal losses since last January. In fact, I feel like I've spent all of this millennial year rushing headlong from one crisis to another. It's not the way I would prefer to spend my time.

To be honest, there have been more than a couple bright spots in the year for me, not the least of them being the start of the column you are now reading. But I have even higher hopes for next year.

I'm not the only one who has had it rough in 2000. There's Christie Lee Littleton: a transsexual woman who lost her appeal of a malpractice suit she filed against the doctor who treated her late husband. Not only that, but she also ended up with her birth certificate voided by Texas' 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, legally leaving her as a male in spite of hormonal and surgical intervention, and her own self-identity. Another transsexual woman, J'Noel Gardiner of Kansas, faced similar trouble this year, struggling in court to keep her part of the inheritance left by her husband.

Both of the above were partially decided thanks to Defense Of Marriage Act-style laws against same-sex marriage, and mark some of the earliest challenges under such discriminatory statutes. But other transgendered people took DOMA laws the other way, such as Robin and Jessica Wicks, who got married in Texas due to the same sort of decision that went against Christie Lee. We have yet to see how our own Proposition 22 will affect California's transgendered people.

This year's legal issues have not only been about transsexuals and marriages. Peter Oiler was a truck-driver for the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain. He was fired last January after 21 years of employment, because he cross-dresses off the job. Things weren't much better at Wal-Mart either, where a former cashier was awarded \$2.1 million for being terminated over her transsexuality. The decision

was later thrown out after Wal-Mart claimed that they didn't know they were being sued. How you do not know is beyond me.

Or consider the case of Aurora Lipscomb, a child who was removed from his parents by Franklin County Ohio Children Services. She was taken into custody because Aurora's parents were allowing him to live as a girl.

There was even a case in Minnesota, revolving around an issue that transgendered people often face – which bathroom can be used. At current Julianne Goins has won her case, but her former employer may still appeal.

Another employer – the Boston transit agency, MBTA – solved the bathroom issue by refurbishing a former porter's closet into a private third bathroom, at a cost of \$8,000. No word if they have decided that transgendered people also need separate drinking fountains, or should sit toward the back of Boston transit vehicles.

Of course, there are many transgendered people who fare even worse than the above. People such as Amanda Milan, Keith Jackson, and Alina Barragan, who are part of the 18 reported anti-transgender deaths this year.

There was some justice to be had in some older cases, such as the 1995 death of Tyra Hunter, who was refused life-saving treatment and mocked by Washington, D.C., caregivers. They settled the case, to the tune of \$1.75 million.

Not all of the community's losses this year were caused by hatred. We saw the passage of Kim Stuart, author of *The Uninvited Dilemma*, and Lee Brewster, the founder of the 1970s organization Queens Liberation Front. Locally, we lost Marcelle Cook-Daniels, who was well loved amongst the local FTM community.

There has also been more awareness of transgender deaths

this year, led by Oscar-winner Boys Don't Cry. Although it and Pedro Almodóvar's All About My Mother were recognized at the Academy Awards, there weren't many other studios cashing in on the trend with their own transgender plot lines. The focus seemed to be in books, with John Colapinto's As Nature Made Him and Chris Bohjalian's Trans-Sister Radio leading a large pack of trans-related texts.

Transgendered people were also a little more numerous during the elections. The Democratic National Convention hosted a transgender delegate, Jane Fee, while Vermont saw a transsexual woman, Karen Kerin, run for the United States Congress – as a Republican. We also saw this trend in local politics, with Joan Roughgarden and Denise D'Anne running for supervisor seats in San Francisco.

In local politics, we also saw the formation of the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, and the Transgender Political Caucus. The latter backed several candidates in the supervisory elections, and I'm proud to say that all but one of the endorsed candidates won.

So why do I look forward to 2001, even with a lot of positive

happenings this year?

Simple: maybe in 2001 we will see Aurora Lipscomb where she belongs.

Maybe we will see Peter Oiler and Julianne Goins gain final judgments in their favor. While it seems to be too late for Christie Lee Littleton's case, maybe J'Noel Gardiner's appeal will be successful, possibly making things a little easier for the next Littleton. And until then, maybe we will see more courageous folks like Jessica and Robin Wicks.

Perhaps people will finally get beyond worrying about which bathroom a transgendered person can use in the workplace.

Maybe – just maybe – we can see those who kill people like Alina Barragan brought to justice.

And that is something to look forward to. ▼

Gay market

◀ page 2

concert "Equality Rocks" with some big name draws donating their talent. HRC pulled in a fistful of cash from the concert.

Supporters and opponents put out conflicting numbers on how many people attended the main event on the Mall on April 30. Whichever number was more accurate, the crowd clearly was smaller than that at the last such event, in 1993.

Equally disturbing were charges that someone had absconded with huge sums of money from the concession area that the MMOW had been counting on to pay the bills. MMOW officials initially suggested that as much as a million dollars was missing, a figure that upon closer scrutiny seemed to be a rather gross exaggeration, but one that matched their debt. The FBI investigated but no charges ever

were filed on this "grand" larceny.

As the year ended, HRC and gay online companies forgave close to a half million dollars that they loaned the MMOW. That left the organization about a half million dollars in debt to vendors who did much of the actual work at the event.

Gay media acquisitions

Last year the Advocate purchased the financially troubled Out, putting the nation's two largest gay magazines under the same ownership. Then in the spring, the online company PlanetOut announced an agreement in principle to acquire the parent company that publishes the two glossies as well as porn magazines.

In November, the two biggest online sites competing for LGBT Internet surfers, PlanetOut.com and Gay.com, announced a merger of their empires. It seemed that all of nation's major gay media would soon have a single owner. PlanetOut president Megan Smith

raved about gays and lesbians as "a large group of customers." She salivated at the prospect of offering them "a wide diversity of products and product offerings."

All of these companies, now coalescing as one, had been major backers of the MMOW and HRC. Not to be outdone, the folks who brought you "Equality Rocks" have created "equality shops," though they have yet to be so brazen as to call it that.

This fall, HRC opened a store in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C., a prototype for what they hope to be a string of shops in gay ghettos across the nation. They hope to lure customers with trendy T-shirts and baseball caps that bear their logo, collecting names to add to their list for marketing politics and apparel.

It further blurs the line between movement and market. It leaves one wondering what gays are fighting for, equal rights or the equal right to shop? ▼

Transmissions

Christa Smith

COMMUNITY NEWS

Y2K: Part 2

◀ page 1

Cummings criticizing the lack of advertising from companies like Abercrombie & Fitch, who have steered clear of the youth-oriented magazine because it is too "racy." PlanetOut claimed the story was censored because it solicited funds from readers, a direct violation of the partnership agreement between the Web site and the magazine. Soon after the incident, XY severed its Internet ties with PlanetOut.

Two members of San Francisco's HIV prevention community were "outed" on July 13 for their barebacking practices. Both Vince Gaither of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council, and Keith Folger of the Stop AIDS Project had posted advertisements on Web sites that cater to those who prefer sex without condoms. The men and other community members were quick to defend their choices, noting that prevention messages must include harm reduction strategies for people who bareback.

The street-savvy health organization **Breast Cancer Action** celebrated its 10th anniversary on July 20. With over 500 members and supporters, the organization advocates for legislative and policy changes both locally and nationally.

The California Board of Equalization decided that **LGBT people can receive tax credits for their financial roles at home.** In a 3-2 vote on July 26, the board said that a gay person financially responsible for a dependent child – even one who is not biological – can claim "head of household" status when filing tax returns.

August

Just over a month after the biggest queer celebration ever, the **San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee** returned over \$70,000 in revenue to local community groups. Thirty-two organizations split the money, raised by gate donations from the Pride festival on June 25-26.

African American leaders called for Governor Gray Davis to sign a racial profiling bill that would collect data on the number of people of color pulled over by police. **"Driving While Black or Brown"** – or "DWB," as it has come to be known, is viewed by many as a significant problem in California, but Davis claimed budget deficits and a lack of urgency as reasons not to support such a law.

Assemblywoman Carole Migden brought home the bacon in state budget negotiations, securing \$250,000 for the city's **GLBT Historical Society of Northern California.** The money will be used to update archives and make information more widely available o the public.

Castro gentrification was finally addressed somewhat, when Supervisor Mark Leno's legislation was passed by the board on August 7 that makes it more difficult for chain stores to open in the neighborhood. The new law, among other things, reduced the size limit of businesses needing a conditional use permit from 2500 to 2000 feet, and set the maximum size for new businesses at 4,000 feet.

A large number of Bay Area activists participated in mass demonstrations at the **Democratic National Convention** in Los Angeles on August 15; protesting everything from trade policies and the criminal justice system to the exclusion of a strong civil rights platform, the demonstrators caused havoc in order to make the statement that the nation's lefties were being ignored by a party that



Puppets sum up the corporate buyout of the Republicans and Democrats at one of many demos during the Democratic convention in Los Angeles.

claims to be progressive.

The brilliance of the San Francisco Department of Health shone through on August 9, when DPH Director Dr. Mitchell Katz unveiled an **"11-point Action Plan"** that recognized 20 years of prevention messages had largely failed his community. The new plan, criticized by many for its over-simplification of the decisions involved with engaging in sex, called for HIV-positive tops to use condoms and HIV-negative bottoms to insist that their partners wear one.

DPH also announced the creation of a new queer youth shelter advisory committee to consist of neighbors, homeless advocates, youth, and business representatives; the committee would meet to discuss reviving the queer youth shelter at 2500 Market Street.

And in yet another strategically flawed move, San Francisco's DPH decided to remove **male rectal gonorrhea** cases from its monthly sexually transmitted disease report. The report, issued August 15 and containing data from the month of July, contained no mention of the disease's incidence, despite the fact that an alleged rise in cases was cited as proof of an HIV surge.

The month brought shivers to the spines of every LGBT organization that had capitalized on one of the most well-known lesbian relationships in history when actresses **Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche** broke up. Heche was found wandering around Fresno in an incoherent state on August 19; she apparently landed on the doorstep of a fan who invited her inside and allowed her to shower but eventually called police when Heche refused to leave. The couple that had claimed "forever" just days after their first rendezvous three and a half years earlier had no comment on the

breakup other than to say it was "amicable."

A **31-year-old man was struck and killed** by a hit and run driver in the Castro on August 28. Barry Gumb, a neighborhood resident, was crossing Market Street at 16th when an alleged drunk driver hit him at approximately 12:45 a.m. Gumb fought for his life for 20 hours at San Francisco General Hospital before succumbing to major head injuries; the driver was later apprehended and charged with two felonies.

A San Francisco Grand Jury issued an opinion in favor of **South of Market night clubs** that urged the permit process to be taken away from the police department. Police, said the grand jury, were unfairly blaming clubs for crimes that occurred in the surrounding areas.

And **AT&T Broadband** made a fatal flaw when it posted billboards around San Francisco promoting "Homicide;" the spelling error for the television show promotion was later fixed so that murder against gays was no longer implied.

September

Governor Gray Davis's cabinet secretary Susan Kennedy allegedly disclosed **transgender non-discrimination legislation** when she advised lobbyists that the bill looked like future "veto bait." Kennedy, a lesbian, refused to confirm the rumors that she was the one who issued a message to put AB2142, a housing and employment protection bill by Assemblyman Fred Keeley (D-Santa Cruz), on hold until next session.

The **Dr. Laura show** kicked off its first broadcast on September 11, and much to the surprise of the LGBT community, queer "friendly" advertisers included PG&E and Kaiser Permanente.

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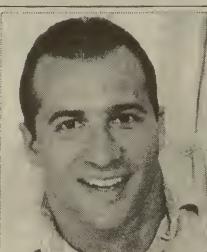
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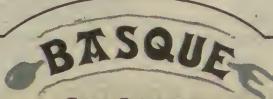
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Boy Scouts versus gays

by Bob Roeher

The Boy Scouts are about as American as apple pie, so attorney Evan Wolfson greeted the January 14, 2000 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to accept the case of *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* with a bit of trepidation. After all, Wolfson and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund had won a powerful 7-0 decision from the New Jersey Supreme Court that past August.

In that decision, Chief Justice Deborah T. Portzit had written, "At a most fundamental level, adherence to the principle of equality demands that our legal system protect the victim of invidious discrimination." The New Jersey court ruled that the Boy Scouts may not bar gays from membership in that organization.

The Scouts appealed, and it was granted. Oral arguments were heard on April 26, and the U.S. Supreme Court rendered its decision on June 28. By a 5 to 4 majority the court overruled New Jersey, declaring that the Boy Scouts was a private organization with First Amendment rights to expressive association.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote that the state interest in this matter did not justify such an intrusion by New Jersey on the Scouts' First Amendment protection. He added, perhaps prophetically, "We are not, as we must not be, guided by our views of whether the Boy Scouts' teaching with respect to homosexual conduct is right or wrong."

Upon hearing the decision, Lambda attorney Ruth Harlow said, "Their leaders and their lawyers have convinced five members of the Supreme Court that the Boy Scouts of America are an anti-gay institution. And now they have to live with that narrow discriminatory vision."

The Boy Scouts have indeed found their victory to be a Pyrrhic one. The controversy has only grown and spread in the ensuing six months, with no sign that it is about to abate.

A political firestorm arose in early September when some people suggested that President Clinton's executive order prohibiting



Bob Roeher

Lambda attorney Evan Wolfson, at microphone, with James Dale, center

discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in federal programs would ban the Boy Scouts from special use of federal lands, such as use of the Army base Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia for its quadrennial Jamboree. Attorney General Janet Reno quickly doused it by ruling that the executive order "does not apply to private organizations that may use federal lands for their own training programs."

Members of Congress and gay elected officials have written to Clinton asking him to resign from his honorary position as head of the Boy Scouts. White House spokesmen have said that the president has no intention of doing so.

Corporate sponsors seem to be made of stronger stuff. Companies from pant maker Levi Strauss & Co. to investment bankers J.P. Morgan & Co. have withdrawn their financial support. United Way campaigns from Portland, Maine to Tempe, Arizona have decided that they will no longer fund scouting activities.

School systems from New York to Miami to Los Angeles have all decided that the newly certified homophobia of the Boy Scouts is not allowed under their schools' anti-discrimination policies. They are acting to sever all ties with the organization, some of which include program contracts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Boy Scouts have struck back, filing suit against the school system in Miami on December 4, claiming that they are the victim of discrimination because of the views that they hold. The case is likely to go to trial in the spring.

But there is dissension in the ranks. Troop 28 in Providence, Rhode Island, has declared that they will ignore the national policy on gays. The executive committee of scouting in New York state wrote to the national organization in mid-December urging a change in the policy, or at least the allowance for local options. Other councils throughout the nation have voiced their disagreement.

Even in Akron, Ohio, seldom mistaken for a stronghold of "the gay agenda," there has been quiet picketing of the annual Boy Scout Christmas tree sale. The handful of protesters carried signs that pointed out the homophobia of the Scouts' policy and urged inclusion of all.

Attorney Wolfson said that litigation may end up being part of the answer, but it is far from being the whole answer. He called this a tremendous opportunity to take the moral high ground and speak to community leaders and people who care deeply about the Boy Scouts. "What we have to do is help them find the proper action in response to a moral injustice," Wolfson said. ▼

Gay 2000

◀ page 1

from the U.S. Naval Academy when he was told to either do that or be expelled for being gay. Then in May, the Pentagon went after him to recover the money spent on his education. The Bush administration had ended this policy known as recruitment but it began again under President Clinton. Enough of a public stink and pressure from the Congressional Black Caucus forced the Pentagon to back down, but it waited until the very last moment to act.

Despite Clinton's claims to dislike the anti-gay policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," his appointees have been vigorous in their defense of the policy. Discharges were up 42 percent, said the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network in its annual report "Conduct Unbecoming." SLDN's co-director Dixon Osburn said, "While the Defense Department claims everything is fine, events of the past year show that conclusion to be a whitewash."

Steve May, the Arizona Republican state legislator, is being

prosecuted for violation of DADT for the "telling" that he did on the floor of the Assembly during debate on legislation. That was before May was called up from inactive status to the Army Reserve. Once the crisis passed, his prosecution began.

Barney Frank and more than 20 other members of Congress wrote the president saying this prosecution was a constitutional violation of May's role as an official carrying out a duty of that elected office. But Clinton ignored this graceful out and continues to process May out of the reserves. The next step likely will be a federal court in the new year.

Health

AIDS remains a primary concern of the gay community as protease inhibitors and other drugs used in combination therapy allow many to treat the deadly disease as a chronic manageable one. But the list of possible long-term side effects continued to grow in 2000. It now includes lipodystrophy, or shifting deposits of body fat; increased risk for heart attack and diabetes; calcium loss leading to bone problems; and an in-

creased rate of malignancies such as anal cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Perhaps the most encouraging development was the very limited initial data that patients might be able to cycle off and back onto therapy at points during their treatment. That could reduce toxicity, side effects, and cost, while improving quality of life. For some, the cycling may be able to "teach" their immune system to better help control the virus.

Some public health officials fear that complacency about HIV has led to an increase in risky behavior, especially among young men, and with it an increased rate of new HIV infections. There is some anecdotal evidence to support those fears, though the data is still sketchy.

To the surprise of many, in October, Congress reauthorized the Ryan White CARE Act for another five years. It is the principle way the federal government funds AIDS services. Credit was largely due to the bipartisan efforts of arch-conservative Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) and staunch liberal Henry Waxman (D-California).

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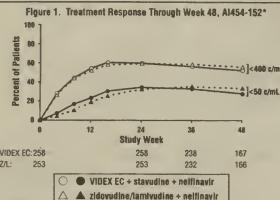
INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VIDEX EC in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation. (See Clinical Studies, PRECAUTIONS: Frequency of Dosing, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.)

These studies are limited to date to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily dosing regimen.

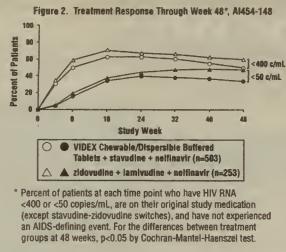
Clinical Studies: Once-daily dosing of didanosine produces a pharmacokinetic profile that is substantially different from that observed with twice-daily dosing of didanosine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). Further, VIDEX EC and the VIDEX (didanosine) buffered formulation produce substantially different pharmacokinetic profiles when dosed once daily. Therefore, controlled clinical trials were conducted with both formulations to evaluate the safety and efficacy of once-daily dosing of didanosine. There is no available long-term clinical information that directly compares the efficacy of the two once-daily didanosine formulations. A small clinical study was conducted to address this issue but was not interpretable due to the small number of patients. The results of this study were not published.

Once-Daily VIDEX EC Study: Study AI454-152 is an ongoing, 48-week, randomized, open-label study comparing VIDEX EC (400 mg once daily) plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) plus zidovudine (150 mg twice daily) combination tablets plus nevirapine (750 mg three times daily) in 511 treatment-naïve patients, with a mean CD4 count of 411 cells/mm³ (range 39 to 1105 cells/mm³) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.71 log₁₀ copies/mL (range 2.8 to 5.9 log₁₀ copies/mL) at baseline. Patients were primarily male (72%) and Caucasian (53%) with a mean age of 35 years (range 18 to 73 years). The percentages of patients with HIV RNA <400 and >50 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure (eg, virologic failure, discontinuation for any reason, or AIDS-defining event) through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 1.



* This analysis includes all randomized patients through Week 24 and after that point is restricted to patients whose randomization date allows for 36 or 48 weeks of follow-up. The number of patients at each point is indicated below the figure.

Once-Daily VIDEX Buffered Tablet Study: Study AI454-148 was a randomized, open-label, multicenter study comparing treatment with VIDEX Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets (400 mg once daily) plus stavudine (40 mg twice daily) and nevirapine (750 mg three times daily) versus zidovudine (300 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine (150 mg twice daily) and nevirapine (750 mg three times daily) in 756 treatment-naïve patients, with a mean CD4 cell count of 365 cells/mm³ (range 80 to 1568 cells/mm³) and a mean plasma HIV-1 RNA of 4.69 log₁₀ copies/mL (range 2.6 to 5.9 log₁₀ copies/mL) at baseline. The percentages of patients with HIV RNA <400 and >50 copies/mL and not meeting any criteria for treatment failure through 48 weeks are shown in Figure 2.



* Percent of patients at each time point who have HIV RNA <400 or >50 copies/mL are on their original study medication (except stavudine-zidovudine-lamivudine), and have not experienced an AIDS-defining event. For the differences between treatment groups at 48 weeks, p<0.05 by Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test.

CONTRAINDICATION
VIDEX EC is contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any component of the formulation.

WARNINGS

1. Pancreatitis

FATAL AND NONFATAL PANCREATITIS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THERAPY WITH DIDANOSINE USED ALONE OR IN COMBINATION REGIMINS IN BOTH TREATMENT-NAIVE AND TREATMENT-EXPERIENCED PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSION. VIDEX EC SHOULD BE SUSPENDED IN PATIENTS WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF PANCREATITIS AND DISCONTINUED IN PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED PANCREATITIS. PATIENTS TREATED WITH DIDANOSINE, WITH OR WITHOUT HYDROXYUREA, MAY BE AT INCREASED RISK FOR PANCREATITIS.

When treatment life-sustaining drugs known to cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC therapy is recommended. In patients with risk factors for pancreatitis, VIDEX EC should be used with extreme caution and only if clearly indicated. Patients with advanced HIV infection, especially the elderly, are at increased risk of pancreatitis and should be followed closely. Patients with renal impairment may be at greater risk for pancreatitis if treated with didanosine.

The frequency of pancreatitis is dose related. In phase 3 studies with buffered formulations of didanosine, incidence ranged from 1% to 10% with doses higher than are currently recommended and 1% to 7% with recommended dose.

2. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis

Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including didanosine and other antiretroviral agents. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when administering VIDEX EC to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients without known risk factors. Treatment with VIDEX EC should be discontinued in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

3. Retinal Changes and Optic Neuritis

Retinal changes and optic neuritis have been reported in patients taking didanosine. Periodic retinal examinations should be considered for patients receiving VIDEX EC. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS.)

PRECAUTIONS

Frequency of Dosage: VIDEX EC should only be administered once daily. There are no data on the use of VIDEX EC dosed more frequently than once daily.

There are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily dosing regimen of didanosine. Therefore, the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX buffered formulation. Once-daily dosing with VIDEX EC should be considered only for adult patients whose management requires once-daily administration of didanosine or an alternative didanosine formulation (see Clinical Studies). Consult the prescribing information for VIDEX buffered formulation and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for information on twice-daily dosing.

General:

Patients with Renal Impairment: Patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance <60 mL/min) may be at greater risk of toxicity from didanosine due to decreased drug clearance (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information). A dose reduction is recommended in these patients (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Patients with Hepatic Impairment: It is unknown if hepatic impairment significantly affects didanosine pharmacokinetics. Therefore, these patients should be monitored closely for evidence of didanosine toxicity.

Hyperuricemia: Didanosine has been associated with asymptomatic hyperuricemia; treatment suspension may be necessary if clinical measures aimed at reducing uric acid levels fail.

Information for Patients (see Patient Information Leaflet in full prescribing information): Patients should be informed that a serious toxicity of didanosine, used alone and in combination regimens, is pancreatitis, which may be fatal.

Patients should also be aware that peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, may develop during therapy with VIDEX EC (didanosine). Patients should be informed that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greatest frequency in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of VIDEX EC may be required if toxicity develops.

Patients should be informed that when didanosine is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when didanosine is used alone. These patients should be followed closely.

Patients should be cautioned about the use of medications or other substances, including alcohol, that may exacerbate side effects.

Patients should be informed that the preferred didanosine dosing regimen is twice daily with a VIDEX (didanosine buffered formulation because there are limited data to support the long-term durability of response with a once-daily regimen).

VIDEX EC is not a cure for HIV infection, and patients may continue to develop HIV-associated illnesses, including opportunistic infection. Therefore, patients should remain under the care of a physician when using VIDEX EC. Patients should be advised that VIDEX EC therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or vertical transmission. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIDEX EC are not known at this time.

Drug Interactions (see also CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions in full prescribing information):

Drug interactions that have been established based on drug interaction studies are listed with the pharmacokinetic results in CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions (Tables 3-5) in full prescribing information. The clinical recommendations based on the results of these studies are listed in Table 1.

Table 1
Established Drug Interactions Based on Studies with Buffered Formulations of Didanosine and Expected to Occur with VIDEX EC

Coadministration Not Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions, in full prescribing information for Magnitude of Interaction)

Drug Effect Clinical Comment

aztreonam ↑ didanosine concentration Coadministration not recommended.

Alteration in Dose or Regimen Recommended Based on Drug Interaction Studies (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug Interactions, in full prescribing information for Magnitude of Interaction)

Drug Effect Clinical Comment

ganciclovir ↑ didanosine concentration Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.

methadone ↑ didanosine concentration Appropriate doses for this combination, with respect to efficacy and safety, have not been established.

zidovudine ↑ didanosine concentration ↑ indicates increase.
↓ indicates decrease.

Coadministration of VIDEX EC with drugs that are known to cause pancreatitis may increase the risk of this toxicity (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis). Predicted drug interactions with VIDEX EC are listed in Table 2.

Table 2
Predicted Drug Interactions with VIDEX EC

Use with Caution, Risk of Adverse Reactions May Be Increased

Drug Class Effect Clinical Comment

Drugs that may cause ↑ risk of pancreatitis Use only with extreme caution.^a

Neurotoxic drugs ↑ risk of neuropathy Use with caution.^b

↑ indicates increase.
* Only if other drugs are not available and if clearly indicated. If treatment with life-sustaining drugs that cause pancreatic toxicity is required, suspension of VIDEX EC is recommended (see WARNINGS: Pancreatitis).

^a See PRECAUTIONS: Peripheral Neuropathy.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis: Lifetime carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice and rats for 22 and 24 months, respectively. In the mouse study, initial doses of 120, 800, and 1200 mg/kg/day for each sex were lowered after 8 months to 120, 210, and 210 mg/kg/day for females and 120, 300, and 600 mg/kg/day for males. The two higher doses exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in females and the high dose exceeded the maximally tolerated dose in males. The low dose in females represented 0.86-fold maximum human exposure and the intermediate dose represented 0.5 times maximum human exposure based on relative AUC comparisons. In this study, initial doses were 100, 250, and 1000 mg/day, and the high dose was lowered to 50 mg/day after 18 months. The upper dose in male and female rats represented 3-fold maximum human exposure.

Didanosine induced no significant increase in neoplastic lesions in mice or rats at maximally tolerated doses.

Didanosine was positive in the following genetic toxicology assays: 1) The *Escherichia coli* tester strain WP2 uvrA bacterial mutagenicity assay; 2) the L5178Y/TK+/- mouse lymphoma mammalian cell gene mutation assay; 3) the *in vitro* chromosomal aberrations assay in cultured human peripheral lymphocytes; 4) the *in vitro* chromosomal aberrations assay in Chinese Hamster Lung Cells; and 5) the BALB/c 3T3 *in vitro* transformation assay. No evidence of mutagenicity was observed in an Ames *Salmonella* bacterial mutagenicity assay or in rat and mouse *in vivo* micronucleus assays.

Pregnancy, Reproduction and Fertility: Pregnancy "Category B". Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at doses up to 12 and 14.2 times the estimated human exposure (based upon plasma levels), respectively, and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to didanosine. At approximately 12 times the estimated human exposure, didanosine was slightly toxic to female rats and their pups during mid and late lactation. The offspring of didanosine-treated mothers had reduced body weight and delayed functional development of the offspring was not impaired and there were no major changes in the F2 generation. A study in rats showed that didanosine and/or its metabolites are transferred to the fetus through the placenta. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to didanosine and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4263. Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant should be advised to avoid didanosine and other antiretroviral agents to avoid potential transmission of HIV. A study in rats showed that didanosine and/or its metabolites were excreted into the milk of lactating rats. It is not known if didanosine is excreted in human milk. Because of both the potential for HIV transmission and the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, mothers should be instructed not to breast-feed if they are receiving VIDEX EC.

Pediatric Use: The safety and efficacy of VIDEX EC in pediatric patients have not been established. Please consult the complete prescribing information for VIDEX buffered formulation and Pediatric Powder for Oral Solution for dosage and administration of didanosine to pediatric patients.

Dose Adjustment:

Clinical and laboratory signs suggestive of pancreatitis should prompt dose suspension and evaluation of the possibility of pancreatitis. VIDEX EC use should be discontinued in patients with confirmed pancreatitis (see WARNINGS).

Based on data with buffered didanosine formulations, patients with symptoms of peripheral neuropathy may tolerate a reduced dose of VIDEX EC after resolution of the symptoms of peripheral neuropathy upon drug interruption. If neuropathy recurs after resumption of VIDEX EC, permanent discontinuation of VIDEX EC should be considered.

Renal Impairment: Dosing recommendations for VIDEX EC and VIDEX buffered formulations are different for patients with renal impairment. Please consult the complete prescribing information on administration of VIDEX buffered formulation to patients with renal impairment.

In adult patients with impaired renal function, the dose of VIDEX EC should be adjusted to compensate for the slower rate of elimination. The recommended doses and dosing intervals of VIDEX EC in adult patients with renal insufficiency are presented in Table 6.

Table 6
Recommended Dosage of VIDEX EC in Renal Impairment by Body Weight*

Creatinine Clearance Dosage
(mL/min) ≥60 kg ≥60 mg once daily
30-59 200 mg once daily
10-29 125 mg once daily
<10 125 mg once daily

* Based on studies using a buffered formulation of didanosine.

^a Not suitable for use in patients <60 kg with CLcr <10 mL/min.

^b An alternate formulation of didanosine should be used.

Patients Requiring Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) or Hemodialysis: For patients requiring CAPD or hemodialysis, follow dosing recommendations for patients with creatinine clearance less than 10 mL/min, shown in Table 6. It is not necessary to administer a supplemental dose of didanosine following hemodialysis.

Hepatic Impairment: (See WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS.)

HOW SUPPLIED: VIDEX EC (didanosine) Delayed-Release Capsules are white, opaque capsules that are packaged in bottles with child-resistant closures as described in Table 7.

Table 7
VIDEX EC Delayed-Release Capsules

125 mg capsule Imprinted with BMS 125 mg 6671 In Tan

NDC No. 0087-6671-17 30 capsules/bottle

NDC No. 0087-6671-12 60 capsules/bottle

200 mg capsule Imprinted with BMS 200 mg 6672 In Green

NDC No. 0087-6672-17 30 capsules/bottle

NDC No. 0087-6672-12 60 capsules/bottle

250 mg capsule Imprinted with BMS 250 mg 6673 In Blue

NDC No. 0087-6673-17 30 capsules/bottle

NDC No. 0087-6673-12 60 capsules/bottle

400 mg capsule Imprinted with BMS 400 mg 6674 In Red

NDC No. 0087-6674-17 30 capsules/bottle

NDC No. 0087-6674-12 60 capsules/bottle

The capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at 25°C (77°F). Excursions between 15 and 30°C (59° and 86°F) are permitted [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL: Disposal options include incineration, landfill, or sewer as dictated by specific circumstances and relevant national, state, and local regulations.

US Patent Nos. 4,861,759 and 5,616,566 (didanosine). Patent also Pending (didanosine capsules).

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Adapted from: N3522-00
Issued November 2000

COMMUNITY NEWS

Y2K: Part 2

◀ page 11

The companies later claimed that they were unaware their ad time occurred during the program.

The Food and Drug Administration announced plans to revisit the much-outdated **ban on gay blood donations** that refuses all potential male donors who have had sex with another man since 1977. But the FDA fell far short, examining only whether to exclude gay men who have been sexually active within the past year; the current guidelines still favor high-risk heterosexuals over gay men who



Chuck Holmes

have religiously used condoms.

Chuck Holmes, a well-known video producer, philanthropist, and advocate for gay rights, died on September 9 from HIV/AIDS complications. He was 55.

The city of Oakland received its first openly gay council member when **Danny Wan**, 36, was appointed on September 18 to fill a vacancy created when John Russo was elected city attorney.

The 17th annual **Folsom Street Fair** took South of Market by storm on September 24; the world's biggest leather party drew crowds estimated up to 400,000 and raised approximately \$265,000 for local community groups.

Once again, the lesbian nation was weeping from a stab to the heart when our statehood poster dykes, **Melissa Etheridge** and **Julie Cypher**, called it quits on September 18, just weeks after Ellen and Anne announced their parting. World famous musician Etheridge and filmmaker Cypher had been together for 12 years and have two children fathered by rock legend David Crosby.

Governor Gray Davis shocked LGBT advocates when he **vetoed relatively uncontroversial trans-gender legislation**. AB1851, by Assemblyman John Longville (D-Rialto), would have made a simple administrative change to give recently relocated and California-native post-operative transsexuals an avenue to obtain new birth certificates. The bipartisan-approved bill, which simply clarified existing law, was rejected on the grounds that it was "unnecessary."

The intense debate over a **queer youth shelter** in the Castro wound down on September 29 when the San Francisco Planning Commission voted 6-1 to approve a conditional use permit for a transitional housing facility at 2500 Market Street.

The new and improved **Women's Building** was unveiled on September 15 after six years of planning and construction. The community center at 18th and Valencia, founded by and for women in 1979, boasts an enhanced outdoor mural, more meeting rooms, and a modern auditorium.

KGO television banned locally-produced HIV prevention commercials from its daytime air slots, claiming that the "HIV stops



Women's Building Executive Director Teresa Mejia with Supervisor Tom Ammiano at the September open house.

with me" campaign would — horror of horrors — provoke youngsters to ask questions of their parents. The *San Francisco Chronicle* added to the hysteria by claiming that one of the ad's featured spokes models, a transgender woman named Felicia Elizondo, was "holding her nipples" during the commercial when in fact she was only crossing her arms. The network agreed to run the advertisements after 10 p.m.

And the Human Rights Campaign reported that domestic partnership benefits increased 25 percent nationwide, with 3,572 companies, colleges, and governments joining the effort to offer health insurance to same-sex couples in the last year. **San Francisco** was given the credit for setting the standard for the rest of the country to live up to, with the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance, passed in 1997.

October

An estimated quarter of a million people swarmed through San Francisco's gayest neighborhood for the annual Castro Street Fair on October 1. Fair board president Steve Gaynes said that over \$46,000 to benefit community organizations was raised from gate donations — a 10 percent increase from 1999.

Several of San Francisco's openly gay and lesbian elected officials held a small rally at the site of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk's former camera shop on Castro Street October 2 to show their support for Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign. Supervisor Mark Leno took a shot at Green Party candidate Ralph Nader for referring to equal rights measures for gays as "gonadal politics," while city Treasurer Susan Leal said that while Gore is not perfect, he represents the best opportunity for progress for the LGBT community. Supervisor Leslie Katz said there would be "catastrophic implications" for the U.S. Supreme Court in the event of a Bush administration. "It's frightening to think of what kind of people Bush would pick."

A shaken San Francisco Health Commissioner **Ron Hill**, facing a \$17,500 warrant out for his arrest in Sonoma County for bad checks



Health Commissioner Ron Hill

and an ongoing investigation of similar charges in San Francisco, suggested on October 10 that an ex-lover of many years may have stolen his checks and/or identification. Hill resigned a week later.

Queer lobby group California Alliance for Pride and Equality had anticipated receiving all of the approximately \$250,000 left over from the unsuccessful campaign to defeat Proposition 22, the March ballot measure from homophobic state Senator Pete Knight (R, Palmdale) which codified marriage in the state as the exclusive domain of people who practice heterosexuality. But former No on Knight campaign manager Mike Marshall said that CAPE would receive \$160,000, while \$15,000 would go to pro-gay marriage forced in Nebraska, some \$50,000 would go toward still-to-be-defined public education efforts around same-sex marriage in California, and the remainder would be set aside in the event of state fines against the campaign.

Accomplishing two firsts in a single vote, the board of directors of the nonprofit group that plans San Francisco's annual Pride festival, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee Inc.,



Pride Prez Cecilia Chung

elected **Cecilia Chung** as its president. Chung, a case management worker at the Tom Waddell Health Center and a member of the city's HIV Health Services Planning Council, became the board's first Asian American as well as its first transgender president.

Openly gay Department of Public Health Director Dr. Mitchell H. Katz plainly revealed himself to be **particularly sensitive** to criticisms from within the LGBT community on October 10. Alleging that the *Bay Area Reporter* — the only paper, incidentally, that even superficially scratched below the dumbed-down explanations of the algebraic "Delphi" machinations that UCSF/DPH's epidemiologists employed in preliminarily estimating the annual number of new HIV infections in the city — had "consistently taken out of context, misquoted, and distorted statements

next page ▶

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Y2K: Part 2

◀ previous page

made by DPH staff," and implying that by shining a light on the issue the B.A.R. was in cahoots with AIDS denialists, Katz issued a declaration stating that the entire health department was to respond to the B.A.R. in writing only. Despite repeated offers from the newspaper to adhere to standing policy by making any and all corrections or clarifications to any in-



DPH's Dr. Mitch Katz

ator Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles), the hearing was the first of two on the inhumanity of the prison system towards female prisoners. The second hearing, convened in Los Angeles County, focused on patterns of sexual abuse inflicted on women prisoners by uniformed prison guards.

Mike Shriner, 37, co-director of community initiatives for the AIDS Policy Research Center of UCSF's AIDS Research Institute, and an early member of the original ACT UP/San Francisco, was named HIV/AIDS policy adviser by Mayor Willie Brown in mid-March.

Harry Hay, a founder of the Mattachine Society, the first civil rights advocacy group for homosexuals that formed its first chapter in Los Angeles the 1950s, and of the post-sexual revolution's Radical Faerie Movement that still bears fruit today, was steadily recovering in a San Francisco Hospital after undergoing surgery for colon cancer on October 25 at a San Francisco hospital.

Chiron Corporation CEO Sean Lance dipped into the biotech's accounts in late October and cut a check for an undisclosed amount made out to a front group for the anti-gay **Boy Scouts of America**. The many LGBT employees of the Emeryville-based developer of AIDS, cancer, and other therapies registered their outrage to company managers, citing BSA's court-upheld yet morally-wrong discriminatory policy against gays in its ranks. All 3,600 Chironites received an October 27 e-mail from Lance announcing the donation and claiming the BSA program, called Learning for Life, "is serving as a cornerstone of the efforts of [Oakland schools superintendent] Dennis Chaconas" to improve conditions in the K-12 public school



Megan Smith and Lowell Selvin of PlanetOut Partners Inc.

system. Told of Lance's claim, a spokesman for Chaconas said he had never heard of the program, yet later acknowledged it was being tried out in a couple Oakland schools.

November

As the rest of the country blindly embraced the "compassion" and "honesty" of George W. Bush on Tuesday, November 7, San Francisco delivered a resounding "no" to the big money trying to fool the general public on a number of issues. **Many progressives** and other candidates not hand-picked by Mayor Willie Brown were in the lead in several district races for supervisor. Progressive poster boy Supervisor Tom Ammiano achieved election by a landslide, allowing him to avoid the December 12 runoff. Supervisor Gavin Newsom was unopposed and also won outright.

Winning 49.5 percent of the vote in District 8, openly gay Supervisor Mark Leno would have to beat back a challenge from openly lesbian community activist Eileen Hansen, who took 34.4 percent.

The pitched battle between slow-moving **Proposition L** and the competing **Proposition K** capsized the growing civic rancor over big development and displacement, and was seen as the bellwether of the shift of the local power center from the moderate Democrats of K, supported by Mayor Brown, and the progressive Democrats to the left, supported by Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. Both propositions lost at the polls, though Proposition L came closest by about 1,100 votes.

Reviews were mixed in mid-November when **PlanetOut.com** and **Gay.com** announced their plans to merge and effectively form one leading Internet source for LGBT news, politics, and community exchange. The once-rival businesses, both based in San Francisco, said they would pool their resources to create, as they said, "a multi-faceted global media and services company" that immediately reaches 3.5 million monthly users. Some people in the LGBT community expressed concern that the new alliance would lead to less diversity in media opinions, excluding marginalized populations and presenting to the world one voice by which all LGBT people will be characterized.

speakers at the 22nd annual Milk/Moscone Candlelight Memorial March on Monday, November 27, the anniversary of the brutal assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone at the hands of former Supervisor Dan White. The march down Market Street from the Castro to City Hall was attended by about 100 people who huddled together across from the site and listened as Ammiano and Migden spoke of the lives and legacies of the slain progressive leaders.

Breast cancer treatment license plates went on the market through several outlets, and were authorized in May by California Governor Gray Davis to increase access to appropriate breast cancer treatment for low-income women. Applications for the new license plate are available at www.carclub.com or 1-800-CAR-CLUB, and also at www.cure-breastcancer.org.

Attorneys for the family of the late **Jeffrey Goring**, a San Jose man who died on February 13 after collapsing on the stage dance floor at the popular Club Universe, announced they were filing a wrongful death lawsuit against the gay dance club in San Francisco's South of Market District. The suit alleges that club employees waited too long to call 911 after Goring fell to the floor. Club officials had vehemently denied the charges.

December

Several events were held around the Bay Area, and hundreds throughout the world, to mark **World AIDS Day** on December 1, including a ceremony at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. San Francisco poet laureate Janice Mirikitani read a poem at the event that told of a young girl whose life was ravaged by AIDS after being sold into prostitution by her family. "It's ironic that so many of us reject religion, when there's so much evidence that we've played such important roles throughout history," said gay spiritual author Christian de la Huersta, who attributed the world's ills to a chaotic state in which the energies of spiritual people are not being tapped. "The gatekeepers have been fired from their jobs... We must reclaim our archetypal spiritual roles."

Saying that it was in large part due to his emotional inability to move on from the worst days of the AIDS epidemic in San Fran-



Examiner publisher Ted Fang

Ted Fang took over the reins at the new *San Francisco Examiner*, becoming the first openly gay person as well as the first Asian to serve as publisher of a major metropolitan daily when the first slimmed-down issue hit the streets November 22.

After five years of development, **Grace Cathedral Episcopal Church** celebrated the dedication of the Interfaith AIDS Memorial Chapel on Thursday, November 30.

Supervisor Ammiano and Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D, San Francisco) were the featured

cisco, the **Reverend Jim Mitulski** resigned his 15-year post as pastor of the 500-congregant Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. He preached his last sermon December 3.

Construction delays were blamed for the postponement of the new **queer youth shelter**'s opening, now slated for mid-to-late-January. Supervisor Mark Leno, DPH officials, and on-site contractor Ark of Refuge had hoped to open the facility before the December holidays. ▼

Relationships: I Need a Man

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January 10, 17, 24, 31
From 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

This interactive four-part workshop focuses on letting go of past love mistakes, meeting Mr. Right vs. Mr. Right-now, and how to nurture and sustain relationships that will work for you.



Gay Life, promoting Gay men's sexual health and emotional well-being. Gay Life is a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

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Jane Philpot/Candid

The Reverend Jim Mitulski

OBITUARIES

Local activist Rick Pacurar dies at 47

by Cynthia Laird

Rick Pacurar, past president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, a founder of the Harvey Milk AIDS Education Fund, and a longtime AIDS activist, died last Monday, December 18 of AIDS-related complications at Kaiser Medical Center in San Francisco. He was 47.

Mr. Pacurar was with his lover of 22 years, Mike Housh, and his parents, Victor and Doris Pacurar, at the time of his death.

Mr. Pacurar and Mike Housh met at the first Harvey Milk March in 1979, and both are respected leaders of the lesbian and gay community and progressive politics. Mr. Pacurar was a campaign aide to former Supervisor Harry Britt, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, former Mayor Art Agnos, and Supervisor Tom Ammiano,



The late Rick Pacurar

and was an aide to state Senator John Burton when he served in the Assembly. Mr. Pacurar was president of the Milk Club from

1985-87 and twice served as executive director of Project Artaud, a leading artists' live-work complex. He helped establish the first live-work ordinance to assist artists. Mr. Pacurar worked in Washington, D.C. from 1983-84 for Senator Ted Kennedy at the Nuclear Freeze Foundation.

Mr. Pacurar served on the Joint Task Force on HIV, and was an early advocate for HIV prevention efforts, especially for women and other under-served populations.

"Rick was known by his many friends for his passion for politics, his brilliance, and his belief that progressive values could counter the power of special interests. He was a spirited opponent of the brutal use of power, whether from gay or non-gay self-proclaimed spokespersons," commented Ammiano.

A memorial service is planned for January. ▼

Paul Wotman

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tute. From this place in the spotlight he garnered numerous appearances on television's *Oprah*, *Larry King Live*, *Donahue*, and other shows, and was requested to speak at many gay and lesbian organizations. It is estimated that in the last 15 years Wotman represented over 2,200 clients who were fighting bias related to sexual orientation and/or HIV status; details of many of these cases can be found on his Web site, www.wotman.com.

"Paul took great pride in the precedent-setting cases he worked on," Dominick Albano, a longtime friend, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "From his early days as member of student groups to his later in-

vovement with law, he was very landmark oriented, and very aware of the impact that individuals could make in the community."

Wotman grew up on New York's Long Island and earned his undergraduate degree at Columbia University in Manhattan. He moved to the West Coast in his 20s and received his law degree from the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. He was active with local legal groups the Alliance and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, and was a major contributor to the Human Rights Campaign, and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Wotman's battle with lymphoma lasted about a year, according to Albano, and he had been undergoing chemotherapy

since the spring. At the time of his death he was surrounded by his life partner Danny Scheie and longtime friends Albano and Alan Linder. He is survived by parents Robert and Anita Wotman, brother and sister-in-law David and Laurie Wotman, brother Daniel Wotman, nephews Jason, Andrew, and Michael, and niece Carly, all of New York. He also leaves behind many friends and colleagues.

In lieu of gifts, contributions may be made to the Human Rights Campaign, 919 18th Street, NW Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006-5509; or the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, 6030 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

A celebration of Wotman's life will be scheduled after the New Year. For more information call (415) 285-9583. ▼

Gay 2000

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The 13th International AIDS Conference was held in Durban, South Africa in July, the first such gathering in a developing nation hard hit by AIDS. No scientific breakthroughs were announced. The primary focus was on changing the political, economic, and research landscapes to better assist those nations most devastated by the epidemic.

A who's who of lesbian health gathered in Washington, D.C. in September for the first National Conference on Lesbians and Cancer, organized by the Mautner Project for lesbians with cancer. It called for breaking down the barriers of ignorance, homophobia, and access to care that result in lesbians receiving less than adequate health care.

"Healthy People 2010" is the massive document prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services that will guide the federal government's health care activities over the next decade. The GLBT community was absent from an early version of the report. Protests by the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and others led to inclusion in a later version. But they were shocked to see that most of those additions had been cut when the first public draft of the report was released. A series of meetings and

protests got many of those cuts restored in the final document released in the fall.

Law and society

Anti-gay violence reared its ugly head in numerous places across the country, too often bringing death and mourning. But from California to West Virginia to Virginia, the murderers were apprehended and prosecution continues apace. Law enforcement officials increasingly are treating these crimes in the professional manner that they should.

Federal hate crimes legislation passed the Senate in June by a surprising margin of 57-42. That edge is sure to grow, as several opponents were defeated for re-election in November. The House passed a procedural measure in support of the legislation in September, by 232 to 192, but the bill died in a conference between the two chambers.

Local jurisdictions continue to add sexual orientation to their non-discrimination protections at a pace that is difficult to follow. Atlanta, Georgia and Nassau County, New York, which sprawls across Long Island, are the latest to join the list. The major disappointment was the state of Maine where a ballot initiative lost by a slim margin in November.

The private sector has been moving just as rapidly in offering domestic partner benefits for GLBT families. In December, Bell-

South became the last major telecommunications company to join the list. Virtually all high tech companies offer DP benefits in order to attract the best workforce and the trend is working its way down the corporate food chain.

Religion continued to grapple with gays and lesbians and the issue of marriage. Progress was more individual than institutional as pastors and individual churches increasingly came to embrace all believers regardless of their sexual orientation.

The Vatican continued its tradition of homophobia. In May it barred Sister Jeannine Gramick and Father Robert Nugent, founders of the New Ways Ministry, from writing or speaking about homosexuality. In July it lambasted and tried to shut down the international gay pride festival in Rome.

America saw two very different images of gay people through their television. Richard Hatch, "the naked fat guy," emerged as the *Survivor* on that summer blockbuster, and with it a mix of grudging admiration and a degree of normalization of gays.

Queer as Folk dipped a toe into the sexual part of orientation among a younger party crowd, though the fact it was on cable meant a much smaller audience. While social conservatives issued their typically apocalyptic news releases, few people paid them much heed. ▼

Charles Lorthridge

Charles Lorthridge, 56, the flamboyant and colorful Bay Area flea-market vendor, known to many simply as "Charleston," died Sunday, December 17, 2000 in San Francisco.

On that Sunday afternoon, while working at the Alemany Outdoor Market, a thief stole an item from Mr. Lorthridge's table, he gave chase and successfully retrieved the stolen merchandise. Possibly because of the exertion, Mr. Lorthridge fell to the ground and died instantly. The Coroner's Office said the case is still an open investigation.

Mary Millman, a flea-market organizer, said: "He was among the best of us, a master of our form of show biz, a good friend, and an absolute fixture of our world. I am so glad that his passing was instantaneous, and without pain to him. But God, we are really going to miss him."

Born and raised in Overton, Texas,

he graduated from Prairie View A & M University. Through his mother and aunt he gained a love and developed an appreciation for stylish and spectacular clothes.

The Alameda Penny Market was Mr. Lorthridge's entry point to the open market world. It also liberated the young, gay, Black man from the cultural constraints of East Texas.

With a vibrant personality, booming voice, standing over six feet tall, and weighing much of the time, over 250 pounds, he quickly became a unique personality on the open market scene. Mr. Lorthridge became known as "Charleston, vendor of vintage apparel and accessories extraordinaire."

Mr. Lorthridge lived in Menlo Park with his friend and roommate, Gary Graul. Graul said an annual Spring Garden gathering will be presented this spring in his honor. No funeral is planned at this time.



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by Jim Provenzano

In an early scene in the offbeat Brit flick *Virtual Sexuality* a young man experiences the confusion of the basketball court, and the locker room, with one exception. Inside his body is a woman. Actually, he's a ... well, it's a bit confusing "Interface Reality Clash," but amusingly told, with a filter of gay subtext that's as subtle as a British double-decker bus.

In part, *Virtual Sexuality* sparks the question of gender and its purpose in that strange sordid world of heterosexuality, but also makes comments about macho culture and feminine wiles.

"So, I'm a babe," the created bloke realizes when the girl he sprang from is called one. Confusing? Yes. Amusing. Yes.

Sports, sexuality and other topics fly around the Internet these days. People still ask me why. Why write about queer sports for the past four years? Interface through sweat, I guess.

Many Bay Area sports groups have their own Web sites. Here's some info in not-as-random-as-it-seems order. Make your New Year's resolution to join the group of your liking and get a queer-friendly workout.

Running**SF Frontrunners**

This social running and walking club, hosts weekly events at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park. Enjoy post-run brunches. Tuesday evening runs trek along the Embarcadero. (415) 978-2429 or (415) 668-3771

East Bay Frontrunners

Usually morning events, in scenic spots around Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, and other cities. Gayle (510) 625-0908 or Robert at (510) 531-0512.

SF Track and Field

Forming 2002 Team for Sydney, they also welcome all levels of skill and ability. Practices are held weekly (Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6 p.m., and Sunday mornings at 10) at Kezar Stadium on the southeast side of Golden Gate Park. Info: (415) 550-7966.

Cycling**Different Spokes/SF**

On road and off road adventures in cycling for this GLBT-inclusive group. Weekly rides and social events among its 300-plus membership. Write P.O. Box 14711 SF, CA 94114 or call (415) 282-1647. Check out <http://www.dssf.org/>

Cycling and hiking**Marin Hike & Bike Club**

On foot or on a Schwinn, this group throws parties, events and sports treks of all sorts through lovely Marin County. Info: (415) 457-1115, ext. 230.

Just hiking**San Francisco Hiking Club**

Most weekends throughout the year, this hardy group of outdoors folk venture forth outwardly through SUV Land to the peaks and valleys of our land. Info: (415) 487-6410.

Gay/Lesbian Sierrans

Dozens of hikes a month, including day hikes and overnight trips, bike rides, conservation work parties, so you can dig in with your fellow environmental-

ist. Info: (415) 281-5666, or (408) 450-0402. <http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls/>

Just hiking w/ winmin**Wilderness Women**

Kayak and ski or just relax on a bike or hike with sisters in outdoors spirit. Monthly newsletter, all welcome. (925) 283-0485.

Hiking for a cause**Healing Waters**

Nonprofit group that offers adventure hikes, rafting, cross-country skiing, and backpacking trips. Your ticket pays for PWAs to go on similar trips. Info: (415) 296-6179.

Martial arts**Triangle TaeKwon Do Club**

Safe environment in which to learn how to whack people with a single chop? No, actually, a deft form of self defense Mondays and Fridays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Eureka Valley Recreation Center. Info: Ken Craig, instructor. (415) 222-0551.

Golden Gate Dragons

Experienced martial artists are welcome to bring their equipment for monthly practice sessions. First Saturday of the month, 1-2:30 p.m. Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th. (415) 281-2991. <http://www.ggdw.org>

Small craft**Windsurfers**

GLBT-inclusive group for windsurfers and their wannabe pals. Yeah, sure, you know how. Go and learn. (510) 548-9009.

SF Bay Blades Rowing Club

GL club for all levels. Beginners classes, advanced runs, some competition. Weekly practices at Lake Merritt. Casual row and brunch first Sunday of each month. Info for the women's club: Debra (415) 584-1257. Men's club: Vern at (415) 558-8671.

Team SF Sailing

Group forming for participation in the 2002 Sydney sailing exhibition competition. Kip Darcey at (415) 621-1728 or Katherine Holland at (415) 665-8572.

San Francisco Windsurfing

Like a surfboard with an environmentally-correct motor, wind surfing is best enjoyed during those rare breezy days. <http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Rapids/1569/wind.html>

Barbary Coast Boating

Group for owners and enthusiasts of sail boats, yachts, powerboats kayaks, or just people who like the boat chase scenes in *Gator*. Monthly meetings. (415) 905-6267.

Swimming**Lavender Lanes Swimming**

Outdoor pool swimming for gay guys in Marin at College of Marin, Kentfield. After swimming, take in lunch at the Woodlands Market or nearby nature preserve. La. Sound swimmingly nice. \$3 donation gets there from San Francisco. Info (415) 749-1568.

SF Tsunami Swim Club

Provides coached, 90-minute



"I TOLD LEE I WAS TIRED OF TIGHT ENDS..."

Far from the Madden-ing crowd

workouts for adult swimmers of all ages and levels. Monday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings with a fabulous brunch afterward. It's all about carbs. Tsunami Wetline (415) 487-6614. <http://www.sftsunami.org/>

Swimming with balls

SF Water Polo is one of the newest teams to form this year. They made quite a splash at this year's Tsunami meet. Visit them at: <http://www.sftsunami.org/polo/>

Further underwater**Northern California Rainbow Divers**

Scuba diving club for the GLBT community and their pals. Enjoy singing "Under the Sea" more than normal? Suit up, and enjoy the sea life. When not diving, the club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 152 Church St. (415) 522-2348

Water, bikes, and running**San Francisco Triathletes**

These athletic overachievers conquer all terrain and participate in regional triathlons as well as Gay Games events. Web: <http://www.geocities.com/Coloseum/Loge/9809/index.html>

Ball, no water

Games every Sunday for a league with limited admission, due to popularity. Non-competitive 5-7 p.m. every Sunday. Competitive from 6-8 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th. Info: Tony (415) 621-2710 or online at <http://www.gaybasketball.org>

Frozen water**SAGA North Ski and Snowboard Club**

Takes out-of-state treks to resorts for skiing and snowboarding, including Tahoe, Banff, and Aspen. All abilities welcome. Learn to ski packages available. Info: (415) 995-2772. <http://www.saganorth.com/>

San Francisco Ice Hockey (Quakes)

This diverse group of hockey players went to Gay Games V and is recruiting for new players. Visit their site at <http://members.aol.com/SFQuakes/index.html>

SF Yeti

New ice hockey team in formation. Looking for players of all levels and interest. Chris (415) 596-3811. <http://www.ChrisMagnani.com/sfyeti/>

Grassy fields**Ultimate Frisbee**

Flip and fly like your pet dog as you snap a catch on this weekly gathering of Frisbee enthusiasts. Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park. Info: Jeff (415) 648-6854. <http://www.evitie.com/jharries@itsa.ucsf.edu/frisbee>

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HEALTH RESOURCES

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/SF

Committed to ending the AIDS scam through direct action. Public meeting 7:30pm on Monday at 1894 Market Street. Contact: 864-6688 or www.actupsf.com.

Acupuncture

The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut, 282-9603.

ADD Support Group

Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Community Research Consortium

Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit

At St. Mary's Medical Center sees volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Duetelle, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund

Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Provides about HIV, dating, sex, intimacy? Free individual and group counseling & support services for HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and unstaged gay and bisexual men. For info, call 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons with HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 1755 Broadway, 2nd floor, Oakland. (510) 665-7979

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group

Meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness, 431-1481, ext. 294 or 215.

AIDS Support Groups

Maintains a list of AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and where desired, spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Volunteer training provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 863-1581.

AIDS Treatment Education Network

Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men, Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Alzheimer's Association

Free SF support groups: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2-3:30pm. UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Aging, 3600 Geary Blvd. (Also, groups in Spanish, Chinese.) Info: 800-660-1993.

ARIS

AIDS resources information and services of Santa Clara County, in-drop support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather

Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 611008, or e-mail ch0145@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV

Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Baker Places

Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse/and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

BAPHR

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bay Positives

Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle

Nongroup of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Breast Cancer Action

Captures the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Brown Boys

Drop in group for gay/bi Latino men under 25, addressing HIV and other survival issues. Meets every Mon. at 6:30pm. PCPV, 2973 16th St. 864-7278.

Buddhist AIDS Project

Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cal-Pep

Dedicated to providing innovative HIV education, outreach, prevention, case management, HIV/hepatitis/STD testing, and substance abuse counseling in San Francisco and Alameda counties. For more info, contact California HIV Prevention & Education Project at 510-874-7850 or visit them at 405 14th Street in downtown Oakland. All services are free.

Cancer Support Group

Based in San Francisco and offers a caregivers support group, a grief group, and counseling for cancer patients, their friends, and families. For info call Brian at 422-2137.

Catholic Charities

Residential and direct HIV services include Gruer House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission, 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems

Groups for people with HIV: Gay men's spirituality and healing group beginning 9/28; gay men's mid-life group beginning 9/27; heterosexual men's group beginning 9/28. Must call for times and to pre-register, 292-1521.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza

The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out support group for women

Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lynne, 626-7000.

Coming out support group for men

Meets Weds., 5:30-7pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kevin Pedretti. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence

Provides services for LGBT victims of domestic violence and has a confidential volunteer counselors on 24-hour crisis lines. Call 558-7777. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers

Reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Gay and lesbian Jewish synagogue. Services every Friday at 1:30pm. 290 Dolores Street at 16th Street. 863-6932.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Counseling Services for Drinking Drivers

Groups for gay men who are court- or DMV-mandated to attend a multiple offender program. Chemical Awareness & Treatment Services: 241-1187.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every: Wed., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market; Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center

Free classes for HIV+ people in needpoint (Tues., Wed.), Exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.), Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center

At UCSP Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics

Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dimensions

Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LGBT youth ages 12-25 in a safe, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3850 17th Street, P.O. Box 1200, in the Castro. Drop-in or by appt. Call 487-7589.

Dolores Street Comm. Services

Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters and people living with AIDS at the Richard M. Cohen Residence. For info or to volunteer call (415) 284-6209.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, 529 Clayton. Call 440-1543.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group

Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Mon. eves., 6:15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

Eden I & R

Information & referral for AIDS/affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 537-2600.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services

Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. (650) 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center

Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupunture. 301 Eureka. 548-2215.

FABRIC

A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

HIV Negative Gay Men's Support Group

For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Project; free drop-in, lime-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group

Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Sitting Group

Mediation for those with HIV, caregivers, friends Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am), Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. Info: 863-2507.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions

Provides classes on how to care for a loved one living with AIDS or cancer. For next class sessions, info., call 824-3269.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs

Provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Istituto Laboral de la Raza

Helps low-income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

Jewish Family and Children's Services AIDS Project

Counseling, support groups, case management, more for HIV people and their loved ones. 561-1241.

Laguna Honda Hospital AIDS Unit

Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program

(LYFE) Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth. 565-7681.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project

Free confidential oral HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-3, 4-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 561-2273.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox

Inpatient, medical drug detox, and acute medical care, counseling, and HIV education. Free. Drop-in Monday-Friday 11 am to 6 pm at 529 Clayton or call Hector, 565-1908.

Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic

Confidential, free, client-centered HIV testing, provided conveniently in the evening at an accessible location. Test results are not kept on file. 487-5632.

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-7pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Duran Ave., San Francisco. Sun., 5-7pm, (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-8100.

HIV Advocacy Network

Grassroots project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax, tri-action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV Employment Rights Project

Legal advice and counseling for people with HIV about their rights in the workplace. Call 593-0035 in the Bay Area and (888) 864-0628 toll-free in California.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focused on sex injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight, Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 625-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

HIVcare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sheri Vieira, 355-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson, 292-1543.

HIV Group

Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson, 292-1543.

HIV Negative Gay Men's Support Group

For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Project; free drop-in, lime-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Negative Support Group

For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Project; free drop-in, lime-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Sitting Group

Mediation for those with HIV, caregivers, friends Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am), Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. Info: 863-2507.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions

Provides classes on how to care for a loved one living with AIDS or cancer. For next class sessions, info., call 824-3269.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs

Provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Istituto Laboral de la Raza

Helps low-income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

Jewish Family and Children's Services AIDS Project

Counseling, support groups, case management, more for HIV people and their loved ones. 561-1241.

Laguna Honda Hospital AIDS Unit

Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program

Psychic Horizons

Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

PWA Long-Term Survivors

Support group for men; small, friendly, proactive. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Q Action

Cool programs for guys 25 and under who dig other guys. Chill, chat, and find a date. A program of the Stop AIDS Project. Check us out at 415-665-0790, ext. 304 or www.qaction.org.

Qi Gong for Health

\$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center

Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, massage for those with HIV. Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

Question HV

Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women

Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Rafiki Services Project

Enhancing quality of life for African American people living with AIDS in SF. 346-5860.

re plen ish

Offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Richard M. Cohen Residence

SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call 282-6209).

Richmond Area Multi-Services in SF

Offers free counseling/psychotherapy services to sexual minorities, people with HIV/AIDS. Support groups for family/loved ones of PWAs in English, Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese. 668-5955.

Sadhana Brothers

Gay/bi men's Hindu/Vedic fellowship, meets monthly for chanting, meditation, informal discussion. Call Ed, 647-4388.

San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Immigration

And Asylum Rights Task Force meets first Thurs. of every month, 7pm, 870 Market St., Rm. 1213. Offers support groups for gay immigrants and their lovers, friends. Shannon, 392-2657.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

City Clinic provides free or low cost confidential STD diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison streets and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-4pm; Tuesday from 1-6pm, and Thursday from 1-4pm.

Sexual Compulsive Anonymous

One-hour drop-in 12-step meetings for sexually compulsive individuals and their loved ones. Monday, 7:30pm - Tuesday, 6pm; Friday, 6:30pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market. For info, www.sca-recovery.org or (800) 977-HEAL.

SCA

Sexual Compulsive Anonymous meets Mon. at 7:30pm & Tuesday 6pm; Friday, 6:30pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market. 1-800-977-HEAL.

Senior Central

Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors. Free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Sex Workers

St. James Infirmary, every Wednesday 6-9pm at City Clinic, 7th and Folsom. Free, non-judgmental health care for sex workers. Men's support group at 7pm on first Wednesday. (415) 554-8494.

San Mateo County AIDS Program

Provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer resources coordinator: (650) 573-2488. Information: (650) 573-2588.

Shanti

Provides practical assistance to people living with AIDS. Volunteer training provided. For info on services, call 674-4700; to volunteer, call 674-4722. New location is in the Project Open Hand building, 730 Polk Street, at Ellis.

Shanti's El Programa Latino

Provides emotional and peer counseling and practical support to Latino men, women, adolescents and children infected with and affected by HIV. For more information, call 674-4700.

Southern Alameda HIV Services

Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward, (510) 713-6670 and (727) 9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

STD Check-ups

Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center

Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Stonewall Project

A harm reduction program for GBT men who have questions about or issues with speed. Individual or group counseling offered with no requirement that you be clean and sober (or even want to be). Call for daily drop-in times. 3180 18th Street @ Folsom, Suite 202, SF 94110. (415) 502-1999; TTY (415) 502-5724, fax (415) 502-5764.

Survive AIDS

Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mts, Tues, 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

Transcendental Meditation Center

Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Tambayan

Support/social group for queer pinoyos and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transgenders in Transition

Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 435-9000.

Transgender Support Group

Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month. 6:30pm. Call Adela Holody, Projeto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project

Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Unity Project

A UCSF study for people living with HIV. Share your experiences as they relate to your health and well-being including stress and coping, problem solving, risk reduction, etc. Participants must be 18 years or older. Cash for eligible participants. Call 597-4666.

Visiting Nurses & Hospice of San Francisco

Grateful support group for gay men coping with the death of a lover or life partner begins in October and continues each Tuesday through December. For information call VNH at 750-6800, ext. 21700.

Volunteer haircutters needed

For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Center. Once a month, 8:30-11:30am. Call Barbara at 565-4374.

We Care Bay Area

Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 262-1911.

Weight Watchers Mtgs.

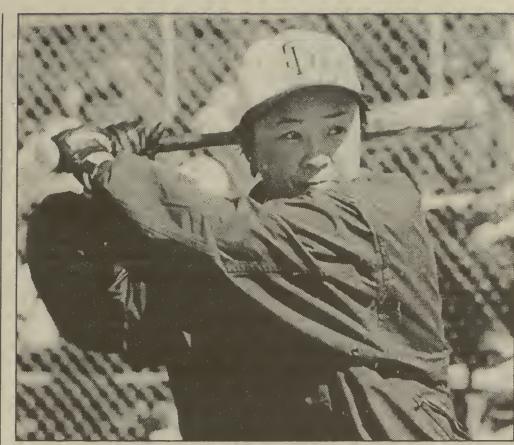
Men: 9am Sat., 7pm Wed; Women: 6:30pm, Tues, MCC, 150 Eureka St.

WilCare Hospice

& Home Care offers free 20-hr. training course for volunteers. 2001 Gateway, San Jose. Call (408) 467-0777.

Women's Cancer Resource Center

Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their families, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.



Jane Philomen Cleland

Get outside next year and join a gay softball team.

Sports Complex

◀ page 18

Men's Flag Football

Every Saturday at 10 a.m. grab a flag off a... fellow in this rough yet friendly scrimmage. Social events too. Info Darryl (415) 441-7760. East Bay, Jeff (510) 893-0744. DGreg64@aol.com

Men's Rugby

Those interested in getting more information can do so via e-mail (info@sffog.org) or by registering on the Fog Rugby list serve (<http://www.egroups.com/group/SFFog>), or by visiting their Web site at <http://www.sffog.org>

SF Spikes

The gay men's soccer team meets Tuesdays and Saturdays, and competes in Marin league games as well as the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association World Cup. They do pretty well each year, too. Info: (415) 861-5271. Ask for Bob.

Grassy softball fields

San Francisco Softball is one of the oldest traditions in the Bay Area's sports inclusivity. Find a team near you at <http://www.SFGSL.org>. Visit www.naaaga.com to find out about the Gay World Series in 2001.

SF Hustlers, the softball team, is looking for players for its 2001 season. Contact Mark Brown (415) 826-6858 or visit their Web site at <http://www.sfhuslers.com>

Oakland Gay Softball

Summer and fall seasons teams always forming. Games are played on Saturdays. All levels encouraged. Info: John or Ken at (510) 835-8012.

East Bay Lesbian & Gay Softball

Join this Tuesday night Fremont-based league for games and practices on a co-ed, recreational team. Info Mark at (925) 709-5737.

Moby Dick Whalers Softball

<http://www.fortunecity.com/marina/manatee/975/bigfish.html>

Rough Riders Softball Team

<http://www.cinch-roughriders.com>

East Bay Softball

Even though some home runs

end up in the bay's waters, they don't make it all the way to Piedmont. Never fear, East Bay Softball has a mound or plate for you. <http://members.aol.com/EBLGSLCOMM/index.html>

Pendulum Pirates Softball Team Homepage

<http://www.PendulumPirates.homepage.com>

Bowling

Thanks to the evil, draconian greed of certain aspects of our municipal government, you can no longer bowl in San Francisco proper at Japantown Bowl. You can, however, join **Out and About Bowling League**. They meet each Monday at Cloverleaf Bowl in Fremont. All skill levels welcome, including San Franciscan refugees. Ingo (925) 709-5737

A League Of Our Own

ALOOO is not a duck call, but a group of lesbian bowlers who meet at Albany Bowl each Sunday at 6 p.m. Info: Mykie (510) 526-5671 or Christen (510) 235-3727.

Tennis

Servings up gay and lesbian lobs for years, this group hosts annual competitions and regular practices. Web: <http://www.slip.net/~glft/index.html>

Bodybuilding

Discussion and tip-sharing group on the art/sport of bodybuilding. Info: (415) 550-8609.

Volleyball

Sunday, noon-4 p.m., spike it, Miss Thing. 18th & DeHaro schoolyard. Jay (415) 864-0257.

Was your group missed? Underdressed? Struck out? E-mail, folks. It works! JimProv@excite.com

Horns to Toot

On New Year's Day, you can hear yours truly talk with fellow B.A.R. contributor David Lamble on his radio show, "Straight Jacket," Monday, January 1, at 12:30 p.m. on Berkeley's KALX, 90.7 FM. The two-part series continues January 8. We'll be discussing my novel, PINS, about gay wrestlers. For more info, visit <http://www.myrmidude.com>. ▼

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Rick Gerhardt

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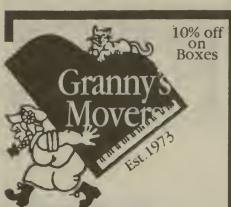
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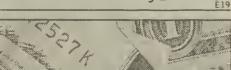
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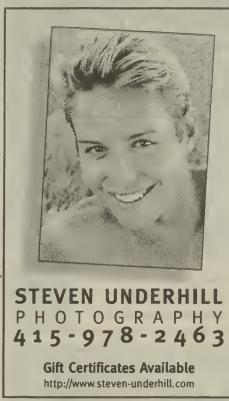
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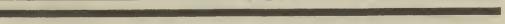
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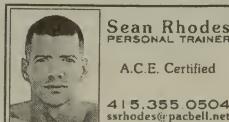
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The best of the year in the arts
BAR arts writers on 2000 in theatre, film,
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Handel's oratorio; and
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Splitsville

The year 2000

by Robert Julian

Thank God it's almost over. Did you ever think you'd see a year in which America would obsess over dimpled chads neither Lowe nor Everett? The 2000 presidential election was a mess, the stock market tanked, and dot coms went belly-up in alarming numbers. San Francisco, of course, rushed to close that gate after the horse was already out, with two slow-growth measures that both failed at the ballot box. You want to see slow growth? Well, take a long look at 2001. You heard it here first.

In a year that began with mergers and acquisitions, Splitsville was the ultimate 2000 destination. My distant cousin, Al Gore, won the popular vote, but Bush got elected, in spite of the fact that the majority of American voters did not want him to be President.

It was quite a year. On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd give it a 5 — but then my vote probably doesn't count, since my Chads have always been dimpled. Anyway, here it is: my highly idiosyncratic list of the most memorable people and events of 2000.

Oh my Pappa: In January, rocker Melissa Etheridge and her partner, Julie Cypher, announced via *Rolling Stone* magazine that the biological father of their two children is David Crosby, of Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young, *et al.* Much media hype ensued, with stints on *Larry King Live* and *Entertainment Tonight*. But the one question on everyone's mind never got asked: Why would two seemingly intelligent lesbians pick a fat, ugly,

former drug addict ex-con to father their children? In September, Cypher and Etheridge split up, ending their 12-year relationship. What could it be?

Just desserts: In one bright and shining February moment, Fox TV self-destructed via the two-hour special *Who Wants To Marry a Multi-Millionaire?* Fifty women actually competed, beauty pageant-style, for the hand of unknown real estate developer *cum* stand-up comic Rick Rockwell. The "winner," Darva Conger, actually married the guy at the end of the program. (I watched with the same sense of disbelief I felt watching OJ speed down the freeway in that Ford Bronco.) The groom, a smarmy, 40ish hetero geek, picked

ice-blond Conger, who liked her new husband about as much as Elsa Lanchester's Bride of Frankenstein liked the Monster. The annulment was swift. After the split, Rockwell searched for a replacement bride on the Internet, and Conger spent weeks explaining she was just an innocent emergency room nurse who never sought publicity, wealth, or fame. Then this self-appointed saint not only decided to flash pussy for *Playboy*, but tried to crash the *Vanity Fair* Oscar party. *Sic transit Gloria Gaynor* — Conger will survive.

Rhymes with rich: Early in 2000, Diana Ross announced the Supremes' reunion tour. She and Mary Wilson had a rapprochement when Ross called Wilson to offer condolences after the death of Wilson's son. But reportedly, when tour profits were estimated at \$15 million, and Ross offered Wilson

only \$2 million, fuh-flew. Ross was said to counter with \$3 million, and Wilson took a hike. Cindy Birdsong, the Supreme who replaced original Florence Ballard, also failed to reach agreement with Ross.

When the ladies once again hit Splitsville, La Ross announced she would do the reunion tour anyway, using Lynda Laurence and Scherrie Payne, replacement Supremes from the dog days of the act (with whom she had never sung). In the group's pre-tour appearance on VH-1's *Diva 2000* live concert, Ross looked like Buckwheat in drag, sang off-pitch, and — with her wild-eyed ramblings — established herself as the Norma Desmond of pop. The "reunion" tour was aborted halfway across the country when fans stayed away in droves.

Dressing downer: At the Eagle last April, the Golden Gate Guards motorcycle club passed out their "Golden Dildeaux Awards" for extraordinary accomplishments in homosexual liaisons, assisted by drag queen Donna Sachet. That same week, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, nine young men were sentenced to more than 2,000 lashes each, as well as five years in prison, for dressing in women's clothing and engaging in deviant



Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher conceive, then call it quits.



Who Wants To Marry a Multi-Millionaire?'s bride and groom, Darva Conger and Rick Rockwell

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by Roberto Friedman
and Casting Call

One of our more enterprising arts writers, who uses the *nom de net* Michael Le-Scribe, has been busy casting the roles for the quickie TV-movie miniseries based on *Gore vs. Bush* that's being rushed into production in time for the next Nielsen-ratings sweeps period. Working title: *The Making of the "President"* 2000. Alternative title: *United We Chad*. Straight-to-video title: *Hangin' with Chad*.

Starring, in the pivotal role of dear mean ole **Bar Bush**, Angela Lansbury. With Charlton Heston (George Bush, Sr.), Marlo Thomas (Katherine B. Harris), John Cusack (Jeb Bush), Laura Linney (Dubya's missus), Candace Bergen (Tipper), John Lithgow (Bergen), John Travolta (Gore), Tim Curry (Scalia), Bernard



Shaw (Thomas), Parker Posey (Ginsburg), John Housman (Rehnquist) — we know he's dead, **James Cromwell** (Boies), Christopher Plummer (Barry Richard), James Earl Jones (Jesse Jackson), Congressman Wexler (himself), Philip Baker Hall (Klock), and Eugene Levy (Sauls).

Featuring fiendish **John Malkovich** (with a Mississippi fox rug) as creepy Senator **Trent Lott**. And **Roy Thinnes** as former pest exterminator **Tom DeLay**.

Also starring **Ellen DeGeneres** (Karen Hughes), villain par excellence **Ian McKellen** (James Baker), elfin **Joel Grey** (Warren Christopher), Alan Alda (Dershowitz himself), **Dan Aykroyd** (evil cherub Dick Cheney), **Billy Crystal** (Joe Lieberman), **Meryl Streep** (Hadassah Lieberman), **RuPaul** (Condoleezza Rice), and **Damon Wayans** (Colin Powell).

The casting, as you can see, is not yet complete, but definitely signed on for scripting is veteran screenwriter **Nora Ephron**. There is a school of thought that says **Kathy Bates** as Bar Bush. Costumes by **Edith Head**.

2000 oh-oh-oh!

We gave up trying to explain, amidst all the Y2K hype last year at this time, how the turn of the calendar page to 2001 will actually represent the new millennium everyone was so irrationally exuberant about back then. It's been a long year of knowing OT & the Purists were right; nevertheless, there was something undoubtedly millennial in the air during this past year 2000, a certain *je ne sais quoi* that kept us looking over our shoulder.

Take a gander at Out There's somewhat arbitrary (but tellingly alphabetical!) list of cultural artifacts from 2000, and tell us there isn't something apocalyptic about it. The sky may not be falling as we enter the new year, century, and millennium — or perhaps, a la global warming, it is — but your technology stocks sure are.

1. Discovery of the year: actor **Jamie Bell** in director **Stephen Daldry**'s coal-miner's-son-turns-ballet-star movie **Billy Elliot**. From



Stephen Elliott/Cards Online
Billy Elliott star Jamie Bell

the opening credit sequence, when he bounces on his bed to the strains of "Cosmic Dancer," young Mr. Bell has all the right moves.



2. **Berlin** by **David Clay Large** (Basic Books): We started reading the history of the city on our way to Berlin this fall; we didn't finish this 733-page doorstop until long after we returned. But by the time we'd finished, we'd learned the entire turbulent history of modern Berlin, between the twin German unifications of 1871 and 1990. And what a century of blood and ashes!

We got a palpable sense, from being in the Spree city this year, that Berlin is where all the major ideologies of that wretched 20th century, fascism, communism and the Cold War, played out. Author Large identifies all the players and the history in the city that **Mark Twain** called "the German Chicago."

We found out that the very term Anti-Semitism was coined by a Berlin journalist. And we discovered there are some behaviors that are very deep-seated. In the city's ill-conceived (and failed) bid for Olympic Summer Games 2000, the Berlin Olympic Commission compiled dossiers on International Olympics Commission members, including sexual orientation. This didn't go over so well when it was aired by the press.

Large's book brings us an opportunity to correct our Berlin column of November 9. Although

there is indeed **Renzo Piano** architecture among the cathedrals to capitalism in Potsdamer Platz, the gigantic Sony Centre is by architect **Helmut Jahn**.

3. The Scottish anti-super-group **Belle & Sebastian** frontman sings, "He raped me in the Chalet Lines," on B&S' underappreciated 2000 album *Fold Your Hands, Child, You Walk Like a Peasant* (Matador).

4. Irish author **Colm Tóibín**'s latest novel, *The Blackwater Lightship* (Scribner), is the moving story of three generations of Irish women dealing with the dying from AIDS of their brother, son and grandson Declan. Almost 20 years into the epidemic, and there's no end in sight of powerful works which address it.

5. *How the Dead Live* by **Will Self** (Grove): A biting satirist turns his attention to the afterlife; an American in England, **Lily Bloom**, dies from cancer at the Royal Ear Hospital. What lies in the Great Beyond? The banality of life in a dreary London suburb, rendered with wit and surprising poignance.

6. It really did feel as close as we're likely to get to a "new Beatles album," and not just because it's released on Capitol. The day **Radiohead's Kid A** came out, we were on the MUNI Metro on our way to buy a copy at Streetlight Records when we bumped into a guy already on his way home with it.

7. The parent company of **Landmark Theatres** filed for a type of commercial bankruptcy — and there wasn't a peep about it in any of the Bay Area media that we saw.

8. *The Married Man* by **Edmund White** (Knopf): Paradoxically, perhaps White's most personal novel yet is also his most distanced. In this story of romance and tragic death from AIDS, the author trades in the autobiographical "I" of *A Boy's Own Story et al.* for the studied detachment of the third person.

9. San Francisco Symphony music director **Michael Tilson Thomas**' *American Mavericks* Festival in summertime garnered national press, brought 'em into the concert hall for **Cage** and **Ives**, and opened a few ears in the process.

10. Gay illustration artist **Maurice Vellekoop**'s *ABC Book*, *A Homoerotic Primer* (Green Candy Press, \$12.95) is a delightful A to Z, in children's book format, of naughty gay types doing what they do best, and we mean sex. Even the frankest of weeklies cannot reprint some of the juiciest drawings herein, such as "U is for ushers filling a seat," or "V is for vampire preparing to eat." We knew there was a reason we loved alphabetical order! ▼

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THEATRE

Plays and players

Bay Area theatre 2000

by Richard Dodds

As we contemplate another year from our post-millennial, post-electoral, energy-crunching haze, let us pause to look back on how theater in San Francisco played itself in the year 2000.

Celebrity chagrin

Liza was not ready for her comeback as she tried to launch a tour of *Minnelli on Minnelli* at the Orpheum, struggling physically and vocally, and soon landing back in the hospital with everything, it seemed, except the Bubonic Plague.

Even with the script in front of him, poor George Hamilton stumbled his way through *Love Letters* and made co-star Joan Collins seem like Lynn Fontanne.

Sean Penn, surprisingly, was the weak link in the celebrity cast of Sam Shepard's *The Late Henry Moss*. Even Cheech Marin came up with a more compelling performance.

Good Bard, bad Bard

California Shakespeare Festival made an amazing turnaround under new artistic director Jonathan Moscone. That he is openly gay may not have anything to do with it, but it's the cherry on the sundae for us.

Shortly after Cal Shakes opened its season with a rousing *Taming of the Shrew*, the Royal Shakespeare Company arrived into town with a version that was a dreary bore. What a letdown from a world-class company.

Road warriors

The Best of Broadway series ended the year with dancing queens; the term "guilty pleasure" was invented for shows like *Mamma Mia!* Lots of objectified male bodies, too.

Along the way, a venerable show (*The Sound of Music*) fell flat with a star (Richard Chamberlain), while a lousy show (*The Scarlet Pimpernel*) was saved thanks to its leading man (Douglas Sills).

Ragtime looked stripped down but still worked, while *Titanic* was strictly steerage all the way. Let's hear it for the iceberg.

Acting up

ACT courted gay audiences with two high-profile productions. Tom Stoppard showed off his erudition in *Invention of Love* as he coolly chronicled A.E. Housman's unrequited love for a college jock. The love was totally requited in *Edward II*, as director Mark Lamos sought to turn Marlowe's play into a homo wet dream.

The Fisher king

Prolifically inventive writer-director John Fisher had a hit and a miss in 2000. *Barebacking, a Sex Panic! Comedy* was a hilarious burlesque of sexual politics and nudie theater. But his recycling of *Cleopatra, the Musical*, also for Theatre Rhino, just didn't have the usual snap, crackle, pop from the man behind *Medea, the Musical*.

Hard-hatted women

Brava Theatre Center finally opened in the old York Theatre in the heart of the Mission, though it was still a construction site as Mabou Mines inaugurated the space. The construction crews are

back at work, pushing Culture Clash's comedy about the Mission out of the Mission, but once Ellen Gavin and her Brava! for Women in the Arts get settled in, the refurbished theater should be a jewel.

Privates in public

One show was about displaying genitalia, the other about discussing it, and both shows turned out to be hits. Theatre Rhino got a long run out of *Naked Boys Singing*, which is fluff with lots of dick, while *The Vagina Monologues* offered vagina queen Eve Ensler herself in a candid, humorous, and touching look at the land down under.

Fairy tales

Both ACT and Berkeley Rep opened their seasons with elaborate variations on fairy tales, and

the results again demonstrated how much more vibrant theater usually is at the Berkeley venue. At ACT, acclaimed director Martha Clarke staged a leaden adaptation of *Hans Christian Andersen* with a woebegone John Glover in the title role. But *The Green Bird* at Berkeley Rep captured the kind of magic that only theater can deliver.

New consideration

New Conservatory Theatre Center really emerged from the cloud of its "Nude Conservatory" label in 2000. Artistic director Ed Decker kept his three theaters filled with imaginative variety, featuring both local and visiting productions, and also introduced a new musical theater series.

Among highlights of the visiting shows were the exquisite Varla Jean Merman's sold-out run, Marc



Varla Jean Merman: exquisite.

Wolf pulling back the curtains on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in *Another American*, and former child actor Danny Pintauro getting gritty as a hustler in *The Velocity of Gary*.

If Prince Gomolvlas' thoughtful *Debunking Love* had some major flaws, at least the theater is providing local playwrights with productions. And NCTC also demonstrated that it could take a

difficult script like Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi* and turn it into effective theater.

Odds and ends

Ennio, which arrived unheralded, turned out to be an unforgettable evening of life-sized celebrity paper dolls.

Up Your Ass by Valerie Solanas, the woman who shot Andy Warhol, was turned into a surprisingly engrossing musical rant at George Coates Performance Works.

Fanny at Chez Panisse was a charming locally created musical that couldn't quite find its audience at the Julia Morgan Theatre in Berkeley.

Miss Desmond Behind Bars arrived from Los Angeles with a big budget but not enough imagination to sell another drag comedy to locals and tourists. ▼

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Smart, sexy and character-driven

The best in queer films 2000

by David Lamble

Urbania (1.) First-time director Jon Shear pulls off a neat trick in this sublime urban thriller that is in turn smart, sexy and character-driven. Rarely does a movie get you to root for a character you're not sure you know or even like. In the first reel, Charlie (in a career performance by Dan Futterman) stalks a straight couple, propositions a bartender and threatens a trick. You put up with and even grow fond of Charlie because he has a terrible secret, a secret that Shear spins out almost beyond en-

durance until, by film's end, you're relieved that Charlie is finally home alone. *Urbania* picks up where P. J. Castelaneta's *Together Alone, Relax ... It's Just Sex* leaves off, in a series of comic/edgy odd-couple pairings that could as easily end up in the morgue as in bed. Combining the audacious technical dexterity of Hitchcock with the disjointed nightmare-within-nightmare style of Adrian Lyne's *Jacob's Ladder*, Shear's *Urbania* is a jazzlike riff on the Genet/Fassbinder obsession with killing the thing you love.

2. **Criminal Lovers** Seldom has a film with healthy servings of cannibalism, dismemberment,

voyeurism and a vengeful vixen in a pear tree brought me so much guilty pleasure as Francois Ozon's *Criminal Lovers*. This *Hansel and Gretel Go to Ridgemont High* demmented fairy tale opens with a high school girl luring her impotent boyfriend up for a sexy striptease. Alice tells Luc she's been raped by another boy, the muscular Algerian boxer she really lusts for. In Luc, Ozon gets not only to showcase the hairless chest of a skittish teenage lad, but also provides a punch line for that old Woody Allen joke about what Freud meant by a latency period. A savage crime of passion soon spins hilariously out of control, as Ozon displays a fine touch for parody (*Natural Born Killers*), homage (*Night of the Hunter*), and black comedy (*Eating Raoul*). Alice and Luc fall into a trap set by a pederast woodsman who likes his girls skinny and his boys plump.

In America, a talent like Ozon would be shuttled between WB eye candy soaps and endless teen slasher sequels. Be forewarned: *Criminal Lovers* was too dark a brew even for French tastes, but video-goers may savor this nasty/funny stew of gender and racial malice.

3. **Chuck & Buck** One of the year's most cliché-shattering comedies, *Chuck & Buck* begins with the awkward reunion of two childhood fuck-buddies. Chuck, a 27-year-old record mogul, returns



Michael White in *Chuck & Buck*

Alexa C. Piatt

tro's cries for order produced a kind of neurotic machismo that was in itself a homo-aphrodisiac. In a masterful casting coup, Schnabel gives us a double scoop of Johnny Depp — first as the saucy prison prostitute Bon Bon, followed by the sinfully sexy Lieutenant Victor, who makes a big show of stroking his dick while extracting a phony confession from Arenas. Schnabel hints that Bon Bon and Victor are two sides of the same character, both wielding the same big boot on the neck of Cuban liberty.



Heinz Dörmer in *Paragraph 175*

home for the funeral of the mother of his old friend Buck, only to discover that Buck is behaving as if they were still both 11 years old. Chain-smoking fruit-flavored lollipops, Buck makes a pass at Chuck in the bathroom of his mother's home, after which Chuck and his fiancée flee back to LA, leaving Buck devastated. Written by and starring Mike White (son of gay preacher Mel White and former head writer for *Dawson's Creek*), *C&B* casts light on one of life'sickiest sides: that our libidos and hearts don't always "mature." The film's unnerving claustrophobia is enhanced by the use of tiny digital cameras that break down the normal boundaries between actor and audience, and reveal Buck as a needy boy in a man's body — in short, everybody's worst fear of who they might be. *C&B* defies audience expectations in other unsettling ways. Buck's not retarded, disturbed or innocent — and he is capable of using sex to get what he wants. *C&B* plays like an edgy remake of *Rain Man* without that film's Oscar-winning formula of Dustin Hoffman's method acting and Tom Cruise's grin.

4. **Before Night Falls** Painter Julian Schnabel serves up a deft blend of fact and fiction in his screen adaptation of Cuban poet/novelist Reinaldo's Arenas' frank exposé of the persecution of gays in the first two decades of the Cuban Revolution. Schnabel gets an expressive performance from Spanish heart-throb Javier Bardem as Arenas, reinventing the bio-pic genre to depict the rags-to-rags saga of a resolutely non-conformist writer who managed to get only one of his eight novels published on his native island, and who died of AIDS, in poverty in New York City.

Arenas believed that the true Cuban Revolution was the sexual awakening of the island nation's young men — who increasingly found each other on beaches, in toilets, on crowded buses, in or out of uniform — as if Fidel Cas-

ning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman employ their finely-nuanced alchemy of present-day interviews, and the hauntingly poetic use of archival records, to restore life to an almost-lost generation of European homosexuals, the spiritual ancestors to today's queer nation, a generation almost destroyed by the Nazi Holocaust. What gives *Paragraph 175* its biggest emotional jolt is the sight of six surviving seniors detailing what it was like to be attracted to your own sex during Germany's version of The Roaring '20s.

Paragraph 175 contains an echo of Epstein and Friedman's previous film, *The Celluloid Closet*: there's an odd similarity between the German gay rights movement's attempt in the late '20s to repeal the German anti-sodomy law, and the open sexuality of Hollywood films made in the early '30s, before the Production Code banned all mention of homosexuality.

6. **Wonder Boys** A big-budget Hollywood film that doesn't cue its viewers on when or whether to laugh or cry is rare enough; an all-star film that mixes gay and straight characters like different candles on a cake without stereotyping or pandering is practically unheard of. In *Wonder Boys*, Grady Tripp (Michael Douglas in a career-resurrecting performance

page 44 ▶



Alan Cumming and Dan Futterman in a scene from *Urbania*

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FILM

Feast for cinephiles

Found in festivals and tributes 2000

by Gary Morris

Despite all the talk of Armageddon (and god knows we were ready), 2000 was pretty much business as usual for movies. Hollywood product was so very bad that even most critics — always excepting unrepentant shills like Jeffrey Lyons — were appalled, if a recent article on the subject in *USA Today* is to be believed. Indies, as usual, offered more brain candy than the mainstream for starving viewers, even if it wasn't always entirely palatable. Fortunately, the inventive programmers of Bay Area cinemas and cinematheques made this year a feast for said hungry cinephiles. Let us now praise not individual films but festivals, mini-fests, tributes, and special programs that made film watching in 2000 both challenging and fun.

Peter Adair's *Holy Ghost People*, called by no less an authority than Margaret Mead one of the best ethnographic films ever made, appeared in a rare revival by the SF Cinematheque. Adair, who died in 1996 at age 43, was best known as one of the auteurs of *Word Is Out*, the groundbreaking queer talkfest. But *Holy Ghost People*, a bracing portrait of a sect of snake-handling, strychnine-drinking fundamentalists, eclipses that film in sheer intensity. Also on the bill was newly discovered footage of Adair and his agitprop pals happily hurling 500 pies at horrified rich people attending the opening night of the first San Francisco International Film Festival.

"Arab film" can hardly encompass the wealth of cinema from many countries and cultures, but this year's *Cinemayaat*, the Fourth Annual Arab Film Festival, at least gave viewers a tantalizing taste. Among its many pleasures was Anwar Wagdi's *Flirtation of Girls*, a fabulously fun Egyptian musical comedy from 1949 that proved that some genres are universal.

The annual *Silent Film Festival*, which found its usual warm haven at the Castro Theatre, was

one of the best in recent memory. In a city screaming with SUVs, cell phones, and the pleasant thud of dot-commer heads as they hit the sidewalk, silent movies offer a welcome tonic. One of the standouts on this bill was the 1931 Chinese silent *The Peach Girl*, starring the glorious Ruan Lingyu, who committed suicide in 1934 at age 24. This richly nuanced film begins as a bucolic fairy tale and soon escalates into a class melodrama of Sirkian proportions.

Shadow works

On a more upbeat note, underappreciated animation pioneer **Faith Hubley** got a bit of her due with a fest-within-the-fest at the SF International. Hubley worked mostly in the shadow of her husband John Hubley, but the richness of her work after his death convinced many this engaging artist was the real force behind their innovations.

As always, the Yerba Buena Center was a goldmine of cinematic chaos this year. One of their best shows, in conjunction with the SF Cinematheque, was devoted to **Jack Smith**. This queer trickster was a leading light in the New York underground, creating hilarious and influential tableaux of turbaned transvestites; sirens, mermaids, and monsters from 1940s B movies; and naked, polymorphous, drug-swilling artists and hippies in films like *Flaming Creatures*. Smith was prescient in referring to Maria Montez as "the Holy One," and attained a camp immortality with such memorable lines as, "Is there a lipstick that doesn't come off when you suck cock?" A question we've asked ourselves too often.

Less flaming but fiery nonetheless was the Roxie's *Film Noir fest*. Programmer Elliot Lavine managed to unearth ever more startling noir variants that were both enlightening and entertaining. Who dreamed there was so much noir on television, or that the genre's reach extended to such strange locales as swamps, produce markets, and LSD parties? This series proved it with panache and with neglected gems like *Thieves' Highway* and wrenching TV

shows like *One is a Wanderer*.

Jeff Ross' **Digital Underground Indie Fest** answered the nagging question of whether digital video (DV) should be taken seriously. Digi-films like Patrick Haszon's hilarious satire of the restaurant business, *Waiting*, and Clifton Holmes' existential nightmare *In the Dark* showed that content is still king, but also that DV makes it easy for true talents to produce outside both the mainstream and the "mainstream indies" clogging up the nation's screens.

San Francisco wasn't the only center for cinematic marvels this year. La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley featured a scintillating dykefest, **La Lesbian @ La Pena**. One of the best entries in this



From *A Boy Named Sue*



Women's Prison, from the Roxie's Film Noir festival this year

wildly entertaining fest was the boundary-blurring doc *A Boy Named Sue*, directed by Julie Wyman. In this superb work, ostensibly about an FTM tranny, genders bloom in dizzying profusion, with new permutations appearing as old ones die. That's the kind of world we want to live in.

Equally satisfying in a totally different way was the SF Cinematheque's tribute to **Lawrence Jordan**, a San Francisco animator whose 40-film (and over 40-year) career was distilled into 13 representative works. "Animation" barely covers the beauty and breadth of Jordan's achievement, which predated and predicted Monty Python and the whole '70s collage-art style.

The Cinematheque, which like many a worthy venue was recently

forced to relocate due to the City's real estate madness, also provided what was for this bleary-eyed reviewer the most exciting event of the year: the **Luther Price retrospective**. Price's home movies from hell are among the most provocative works in contemporary art — not only film — and deserve as wide an audience as possible. Price's ruthless self-exposure, his images of ruptured flesh and pathological rituals are tough to take; audiences sometimes flee, programmers are fired in his wake, and even the queer community, which surely deserves a spanking on this issue, has consistently rejected the challenge his work presents by refusing to screen his work at most of the queer film festivals. But Price persists, and we're all the better for it. ▼

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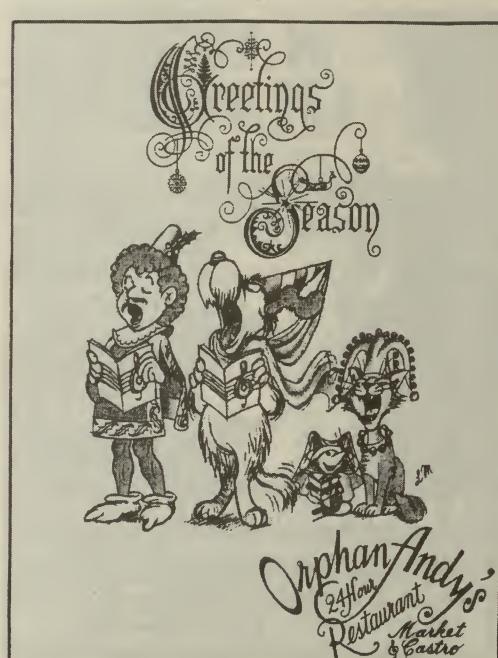
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Giving good scene

The year's better moments in film

by John Blanco

When watching a collection of short films, you occasionally see a work so amazing, so packed with smart and original ideas, that it seems a shame if it isn't one day expanded into a feature. But more often, the opposite is true — you'll see a full-length film with only enough energy and imagination to sustain a 15-minute short. There were many movies in the past year that would have made better shorts than features, works that boasted terrific scenes or sequences but were otherwise disappointing, inconsistent or even god-awful. Of course, there were a few films like *High Fidelity* or *Wonder Boys* that were close to perfect, but they were the exception.

What follows is a look back at filmdom's lackluster class of 2000, and some of their better moments.

Best in Show. *Best in Show* didn't work as well as writer-director Christopher Guest's last film, *Waiting for Guffman*, mainly because a mockumentary about a pathetic little community theater group just seemed more incongruous and absurd, as well as funnier, than one about the glitz-tacky world of dog shows. While less wild and inspired than *Guffman*, the movie showcased just as many brilliant comic ac-



Christopher Guest in *Best of Show*

tors. Two of the funniest were Jennifer Coolidge as a silicon- and collagen-enhanced society matron, and Jane Lynch as the butch handler to Coolidge's prize-winning pooch, Rhapsody in White. At the dog show, Coolidge finds her interest in the strapping Lynch isn't limited to her way with a flea comb. The funniest scene involving the pair comes late in the movie, when they've become proud publishers of *American Bitch*, a periodical for the growing "lesbian purebred dog owners" demographic.

The Eyes of Tammy Faye. Never mind that she had the Joneses to battle Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, or the ambition to

help build a Christian broadcasting empire, to directors Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, Tammy Faye Messner is just a sweet, ditzy gags-lovin' gal. Only once in their documentary *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* do they show another side to her, when she visits Greg Gorman's studio for a photo shoot. Here we see Tammy Faye pitching fits vetoing wardrobe choices and refusing to peel off her false eyelashes ("Those are my trademark.") This is the only sequence where we glimpse a strong, assertive, disagreeable Tammy Faye, and the only time the documentary becomes something more than a one-sided fag-hagiography.

High Fidelity. Near the end of *High Fidelity*, Jack Black takes the



Jack Black in *High Fidelity*



Jared Leto, Jennifer Connelly in *Requiem for a Dream*

stage of a small club to belt the soul chestnut "Let's Get It On." At this point, we've written off Black's obnoxious career record-store clerk as just your garden-variety slacker. But on stage, Black — in a sweaty, passionate performance — proves that he's a gifted singer. Our attitudes toward other characters (everyone from the punks who hang around the record store to John Cusack's lead) are similarly reversed by the end of this film, which sweetly posits that people can be capable of more than you might expect.

Requiem for a Dream. Director Darren Aronofsky's *Requiem for a Dream* is a film with a style and a complete lack of ideas. The movie has virtually nothing to say about the nature of drug addiction other than the obvious parallels it draws between a trio of young junkies (Jared Leto, Jennifer Connelly and Marlon Wayans) and their dependence on heroin, and an old widow (Ellen Burstyn) and her abuse of diet pills. But in spite of its visual excesses and shoddy writing, the movie is worth seeing for some mesmerizing acting from Burstyn. The veteran actress gives the kind of flamboyant, stylized performance that would only work in the context of this film. She especially shines during a scene in which Aronofsky cuts the flashy camerawork and instead focuses on Burstyn's face as she tells son Leto of her utter loneliness.

Wonder Boys. The romance between Tobey Maguire's brooding, nascent gay boy and Robert

Downey Jr.'s glib, bisexual player quietly unfolds as a relatively minor subplot of *Wonder Boys*. But their relationship is dealt with so naturally and without fuss that it makes up some of the most memorable scenes in the film. There's an especially nice moment where Michael Douglas walks in on Maguire and Downey Jr. in bed together, post-tryst, and proceeds to carry on such a casual conversation with the pair that you'd think they were all just gathered around the water cooler.

You Can Count on Me. Modest, small-scale dramas about family relationships rarely find their way to the big screen. They more often turn up on TV, where they're marred by phony sentiment, pat resolutions and sub-par acting. That's what made this simple but incredibly potent and effective drama by writer-director Kenneth Lonergan such a find. The movie stars Mark Ruffalo as a drifter who comes back to his New England hometown to visit his sister (Laura Linney) and her young son (Rory Culkin). The movie has a wonderful scene between Ruffalo and Culkin, in which Ruffalo launches into a rite tirade about their "boring" hometown, a place he's never stuck around long enough as an adult to get to know, and its "small-minded" residents. Culkin, who plays a smart but not movie-brat precocious kid, cuts through his bullshit by quietly asking, "What are you talking about?" Ruffalo, self-aware if nothing else, answers without pause, "I have no idea." ▼

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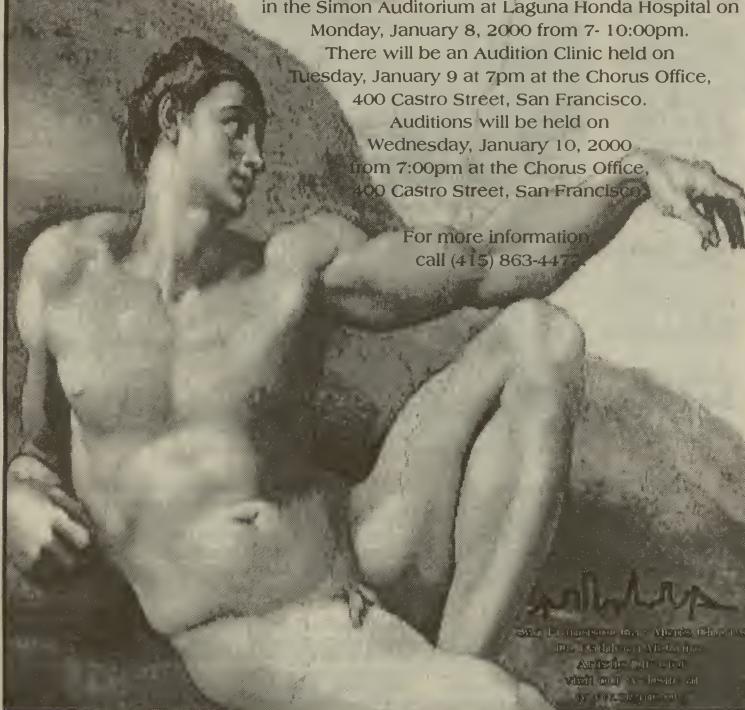
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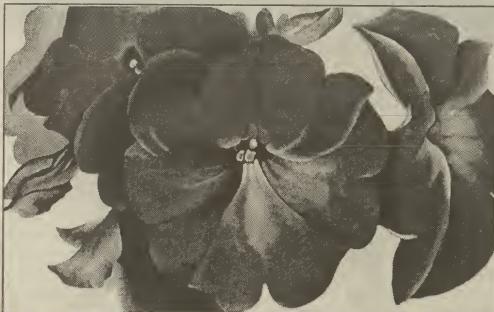
ART

Museum shows to remember

Best of the year in art exhibitions

by Will Shank

Georgia O'Keeffe: The Poetry of Things at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. There may not have been much new in the Georgia O'Keeffe still life exhibition organized by Washington's Phillips Collection and the Dallas Museum of Modern Art. But there is great comfort to be found in the rich colors of her paintings and the simple curves of her drawings. The long-lived O'Keeffe did not set out to be the icon that she is, but she did intend to open people's eyes. As she was quoted on the gallery walls, "I'll paint what I see — what the flower is to me, but I'll paint it big, and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it..."



Petunias, by Georgia O'Keeffe (1925)

If we can overcome the visual clichés that result from O'Keeffe's overexposure on posters and greeting cards, the visual pleasures of her work are vast. In the Legion show, the local curators wisely complemented the traveling exhibition with several additions from the permanent collections of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Achenbach Foundation. Concentrating on "things," as opposed to landscapes, afforded an opportunity to take a fresh look at those richly colored flowers, dried-up pelvic bones, and glowering crosses.

Robert Gober at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The intelligently selected and beautifully installed works of Robert Gober haunted the viewer for a long while after the gallery visit. Addressing head-on, but with a sly sideways glance, the internal conflicts of a gay white male in America who was raised Roman Catholic, Gober is Jerome Caja working on a much larger scale. Never have artworks seemed at the same time so personally felt and so universally appealing. A realistic man's leg, shoe and sock protrude from a wall, begging for

attention. A drain, like a gaping orifice in the center of a gallery wall, defies both gravity and logic. A statue of the Virgin Mary is penetrated by a conduit. Professional plumbing stands in for personal plumbing. In the SFMOMA exhibition, which was organized by the Walker Art Center (in Minneapolis), cryptic sculptures like Gober's faux kitchen sinks benefited greatly from the inclusion of many of Gober's early drawings, which show his fascination with the sink and its accouterments. This was SFMOMA's most thought-provoking exhibition since Bill Viola's videos.

2000 BC: The Bruce Conner Story, Part II at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum. Not a retrospective, but rather a select segment of San Francisco artist

and Offerings for the Days of the Dead at the Oakland Museum of California. The Oakland Museum mounted this fall an unusually thoughtful exhibition which gave immediacy to the little-understood Mexican-American tradition of the Dia de los Muertos. How rare not only to have a spiritual experience in a museum, but to learn from it as well! What are those sugar-coated skulls about, anyway? The exhibition delighted those familiar with the traditions and informed the uninitiated: just what a museum show should do! The most memorable installation was the haunting Los Caminos Residency Hotel, Room 1102, by "Las Otras." A bare bulb over an empty bed frame illuminated a floor cluttered with yellowed book pages and a lyrical swirl of paper moths, the detritus left behind by the many souls who have passed through the empty room and moved on.

Celebrating Art: The Anderson Collection at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The largest exhibition in the history of SFMOMA was a gamble that paid off. The collection is the labor of love of one couple, Hunk and Moo Anderson, who have collected wisely and well. The eclectic hodgepodge of stuff, ranging from New York School masterpieces to California funk, formerly filled their bedrooms, hallways and offices on the Peninsula. But once installed in the museum's elegant



The Coat II, by Philip Guston (1977), part of the Anderson Collection

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

galleries, the whole came together as, if not a complete survey of 20th-century paintings, drawings and sculpture, at least a first-rate private collection, and a smattering of just about everything. But the East Coast won.

Tom Friedman at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. YBCA came into the Big Time with the current presentation of Tom Friedman, the best show in town! The most anal-retentive artist since the medieval monks who created illuminated manuscripts with a single-hair brush,

Friedman is an artist whose work screams out for the viewer's attention to the process by which his unique objects were created. It is also an enormous amount of fun. If his materials are of the everyday variety (toilet paper, pencil shavings, chewing gum), the creative process carries with it a sort of Zen-like concentration. How refreshing to know that you are viewing the hands-on work of an artist who has himself installed a zillion little half-spheres of Styrofoam on a gallery wall! Don't ask; just go! ▼

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We can Handel it

'Messiah'; David Daniels at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

The holidays are almost over, and the last Christmas of the old millennium ended on a traditional note at Davies Hall with performances of Handel's *Messiah*, A Sacred Oratorio. The event has become as commonplace as *Nutcracker* or *A Christmas Carol*, so audiences have come to expect a certain kind of favored presentation. The San Francisco Symphony's choice, this year, of a conductor known for his expertise in Early Music seemed a promising attempt to offer some fresh insight by looking back at authentic period practices. The actual difference upon hearing the perennial favorite, however, was scarcely noticeable.

So many expectations have been piled upon *Messiah* for generations, it would take much more than conductor Paul McCreesh had up his sleeve to shake listeners from their comfortable nostalgia. Most audiences don't seem to notice that the bulk of the work is really more appropriate to the Easter season: all they take away each year is a fond memory of the "Hallelujah!" chorus.

I won't be the Grinch who deprives the public of their beloved conventions, like standing for the aforementioned chorus, or expecting a big, full-blooded sound from the singers and orchestra. I confess to loving the work with all the accretions and inauthentic touches in place, anyway. Modern instruments add an irresistible richness to Handel's rather conservative harmonization, and a large choral group is always thrilling, especially one as well-



Countertenor David Daniels: otherworldly voice, masculine frame

drilled as Vance George's.

The disappointment in this year's well-sung and -played *Messiah* stemmed more from personal expectations regarding conductor McCreesh. As founder of the wonderful Gabrieli Consort & Players in the early 1980s, he has built a career on Early Music, though he has branched out considerably of late. The facts that he was working with an orchestra that doesn't use period instruments, and that he was utilizing a hybrid edition of the score, should have been a warning. Simply avoiding too much ornamentation and moving things along with a crisp attack and briskly sprung rhythms won't change the overall sound much.

The soloists were also less than illuminating. Though thoroughly acceptable, they were rarely moving. Soprano Dominique Labelle and mezzo-soprano Paula Rasmussen, along with tenor Benjamin Butterfield, essayed their roles with precision, even if Butterfield had some vague problems with pitch. It was left to German baritone Stephan Loges to generate any excitement, however. As appropriately un-operatic performances, these were, perhaps, what McCreesh demanded, so it is pointless to complain.

The SFS Chorus sounded grand, and their diction was impeccable. The use of supertitles was a pleasant surprise, allowing for the loss of text in the program booklets, but hardly necessary considering how clearly the singers projected their words.

Dozens of red poinsettias were added to the green garlands ringing the stage and festooning the terrace. The tall pine trees glittered in the lobbies, and the night was just cold enough to make *Messiah* appear the perfect Yuletide tradition. We secularists will have to buy Paul McCreesh's recording with the Gabrieli Consort if we want to hear this fabulous piece of music with a different attitude.

Big splash

The week before, countertenor David Daniels made a very splashy appearance at Davies with songs by Berlioz and Ravel. Ironically, he made his SFS debut there in 1997, singing *Messiah* with Alasdair Neale conducting. If McCreesh had only known that he was in town, he might have made a very beneficial personnel change for

his debut.

Once one gets past the initial shock of hearing that almost otherworldly voice coming from a big masculine frame, the glory of the countertenor voice is undeniable. Admittedly, I was tiring of hearing other audience members make the same observation, but Daniels has more than just a good voice for the range, he has a downright beautiful voice. His choice of repertoire was perfection.

The Three Songs from *Les nuits d'ete*, Opus 7 by Hector Berlioz and *Cinq Mélodies populaires grecques* by Maurice Ravel (first SFS performances) were the kind of revelation McCreesh could only have dreamed of.

Daniels sang with sensuality and taste, characterizing just enough and never sounding less than gorgeous. His looks and sly grin could sell a song if he were half as good, but with Michael Tilson Thomas providing a lush orchestral backdrop, and his French pronunciation idiomatically inflected, Daniels made it sound as if these gems were written just for him. Since the orchestral settings of the Ravel *Mélodies* and the Berlioz songs with a countertenor are unavailable on disc, MTT might want to think about pitching the idea to RCA. If there were any recording execs in the audience that night, it wouldn't be difficult.

The second half of that terrific concert was given to Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 in E minor, Opus 27, and MTT, hardly known for this repertoire, gave it his all. The cascading melodies—and we're talking memorable tunes here—have rarely sounded more heartbreakingly beautiful, and the orchestra played like gods.

Rachmaninoff is often dismissed for his film-score accessibility and brilliant effects, but too often the genius of his melodic gift is underestimated. There are many composers who have spent a lifetime trying to pen just one such unforgettable line, and Rachmaninoff was also a fabulous orchestrator. Often cut in the past, the Second is a long and inexorable outpouring. Of course, MTT restored the cuts, and the work flowed without a moment of boredom. The rip-roaring finale brought the audience to its feet; Tilson Thomas should also give some serious thought to committing the Second to disc. This was a real millennium celebration. ▼

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Stirred, not shaken

Memorable classical music and dance 2000

by Stephanie von Buchau

Despite the fact that there are people who go to the opera just to hear a tenor sing the optional high C in "In questa reggia," or love it when a ballerina only completes 29 of the required 32 fouettés in *Swan Lake*, classical music and dance are not competitive art forms. This makes "Best of the Year" lists problematical, like comparing pineapples and papayas, but some events do stir us more than others.

At the San Francisco Ballet this season, I caught a bug during the second new choreographer's *Discovery* program which was, by all accounts, the season winner. (Two of its triumphs, Julia Adams' "Night" and Yuri Possokhov's "Magrittomania," repeat this coming season.) Truthfully, having missed that evening, the best choreography I saw this year was Yuen Wo-Ping's martial arts in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, but at SFB there were always the dancers to beguile.

Start with **Damian Smith**'s psychotic Tybalt in Helgi Tomasson's *Romeo & Juliet*. I've experienced Shakespeare as drama, music and dance for half a century, and I've never witnessed a Tybalt that scary. The time has come to put Mr. Smith in a leading role.

The woman's part in Balanchine's *Bugaku* calls for incredible, even ugly extensions, a pretzel torso and a glacial demeanor promising ecstasy, death or both. **Yuan Yuan Tan**, new to the role, not only nailed the piece physically, but made Toshiro Mayuzumi's clanging score into a true musical experience.

Tan was also good as the Siren in Balanchine's *Prodigal Son*, but it was her partner, **Gonzalo Garcia**, who rose to unexpected — not by me, but by someone at SFB, or he would not have been dancing in the second cast — heights. Physically and emotionally, the drop-dead gorgeous Garcia offered a full interior and exterior view of the wayward youth's painful stretch towards maturity.

Purely physical thrills distinguished **Gennadi Nedviguine**'s



Julio Bocca (right) and Ballet Argentino

high-flying contribution to the otherwise forgettable *Celts*, and **Lorena Feijoo**'s high-maintenance princess in the excerpt from Nureyev's *Raymonda*. Finally, **Tina LeBlanc**, the company's purest classicist, looked gorgeous in Makarova's "Kingdom of the Shades" from *La Bayadère*, but even better in Tomasson's *Nanna's Lied*, a ballet I always pooh-poohed when Elisabeth (Little Miss Cheerleader) Loscavio danced the title role. LeBlanc proved the choreography has depth, after all; the way she tried to batter her indifferent lover in "Surabaya Johnny" was heart-breaking.

Other dance events that scored with me were the repeat of Mark Morris' *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, a total musical treat even for those who think they don't like baroque oratorio, and the live tango band that accompanied **Ballet Argentino**'s *Tango Viva*. Apparently, director Julio Bocca paid the musicians out of his own pocket. It was worth every penny to hear Fernando Suarez Paz and his tight little ensemble play Piazzolla so fabulously. A rebuke to canned music at dance concerts.

Out patience

When it is badly cast — as *Don*

Giovanni, Magic Flute and *Elixir of Love* were this year — San Francisco Opera can try the patience of a saint. Yet, like the little girl with the curl, they may have been horrid, but when they were good, they were monumental.

The memorable operas in 2000 were the summer's *Parsifal* (interesting production; solid conducting; sensational singing and acting from Chris Ventris, Cathy Malfitano, Franz Grundheber and Kurt Moll); *The Tsar's Bride* (elegant historical production and cos-



John Relyea as Cadmus in San Francisco Opera's *Semele*

tumes; definitive singing from Anna Netrebko, Olga Borodina and Dmitri Hvorostovsky); and *Semele* (hilarious production; vivacious conducting; and Golden Age vocalism by Ruth Ann Swenson, Christine Brandes, Sarah Connolly, Brian Asawa, John Mark Ainsley and John Relyea). If our next Wagnerian, Russian and Handelian projects don't live up to this standard, SFO has nobody to blame but itself for setting the bar so high.

Finally, other musical highlights (not to poach in Phil Camp-

bell's woods, but I was there with gun and camera, too) include **Michael Tilson Thomas** conducting Shostakovich's Eleventh Symphony ("The Year 1905") and Giacinto Scelsi's "Knox-Om-Pax"; **John Adams** leading his own Violin Concerto and "Grand Piano Music," plus recitals by **Anne-Sophie Mutter** and Polish contralto **Ewa Podles**.

Performance of the Year: **Fredrica von Stade**'s vanity-free turn as the killer's bewildered mother in *Dead Man Walking*. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Additionally, The BAY AREA REPORTER offices will be closed January 1, 2001.

Free-range excellence

Top 10 books 2000

by Deborah Peifer

If a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds," then the eclecticism of this year's Top 10 list suggests that I need no fear of that particular danger. The beginning of a new millennium (or the end of an old one, depending on your preference) provided the lucky reader with nonfiction books ranging in topic from dust to wide-open spaces, from life and death to political history. Fiction writers created brave new worlds and stunning characters to populate them. Mystery writers put lie to the notion that genre fiction had to be trite or formulaic. First novelists surprised and delighted, while experienced writers took risks that paid off for writer and reader alike. Here, then, in no particular order, is my list of the books that made 2000 a great year for those of us who love to read and read to live.

book to begin just before bed, unless you planned to stay up all night. Val McDermid's novel of murder and its consequences was more than mere page-turner. In it, she raised important questions about justice and loyalty, and in so doing wrote the creepiest and most compelling novel I've ever read.

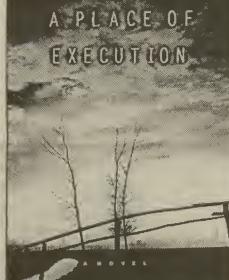
Dust: A History of the Small and the Invisible by Joseph A. Amato; University of California Press, \$22.50

I had no idea how little I knew about dust, and that's odd considering my vast personal collection, until I read Joseph Amato's educational and highly entertaining book on the topic. Dust is the smallest object that can be seen by the unaided eye; it is the dividing line between the visible and invisible worlds. Writing with style and more than a little humor, Amato took a dry subject and made it live. I know I'll never think of dust in the same way again.

It's Never About What It's About: What We Learned about Living While Waiting to Die by Krandall Kraus and Paul Borja; Alyson, \$12.95

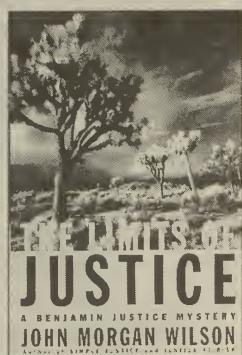
Given the option, I am sure we would all just as soon have skipped learning the lessons of the plague, but we were not offered that choice. Krandall Kraus and Paul Borja chose not only to learn life lessons from the spectre of their own dying, but to share them with us in a practical but never prosaic book that explains, simply and painfully, why *It's Never About What It's About*.

VAL McDERMID



A Place of Execution by Val McDermid; St. Martin's, \$24.95

A Place of Execution was not the



needed to meet, and would never forget. Wilson explored the day-to-day horrors of street hustlers with compassion, but never with sentimentality.

The Silk Road by Jane Summer; Alyson, \$12.95

Would you want to be 15 again? I thought not. In her first novel, Jane Summer revisited those horrific days with wit and tenderness, and not one jot of the terror left out. Summer captured the indignity of adolescence with an amazing sense of the details of that age, realistically recreating those impossible years. *The Silk Road* was a funny, heart-rending, lovely novel, an astonishing reminder of the misery and angst we all barely survived.

Left Out: The Politics of Exclusion; Essays, 1964-1999 by Martin Duberman; Basic Books, \$30

Martin Duberman was present at most of the great events of gay liberation, but unlike so many who claim mere presence, Duberman thought about what was going on. A remarkable collection of essays, more intimate than mere history, more political than mere memoir, *Left Out* showed us how things happened and why during the years of great social upheaval.

Love, the Magician by Brian Bouldrey; Harrington Park, \$14.95

In his latest novel, Brian Bouldrey took his skill as a teller of tales to new heights. He created characters that were absolutely, even painfully credible, and their interactions taught us much about ourselves. *Love, the Magician* was a stunning tale of loss and the shadowness of redemption.

Death Understood by Claire McNab; Naiad, \$11.95

I've always counted on Claire McNab to provide thoughtful, sexy, entertaining mysteries. Her latest, *Death Understood*, was all that and more. McNab created a complex plot, populated with believable and likable characters (yes, likable racists — a truly frightening prospect), and wove topically astute commentary seamlessly into the fabric of the narrative. A triumph!

Those Jordan Girls by Joan M. Drury; Spinster, \$12

If creating one believable character is a skill far beyond most novelists, imagine creating an entirely credible family. Joan Drury did just that in *Those Jordan Girls*, a novel that traced the history of four generations of women: their triumphs and tragedies, of course, but more compellingly, the extraordinary everydayness of their lives. This was the novel I wished I could have written; it was certainly the novel I was happy to tell all my friends they had to read. ▼

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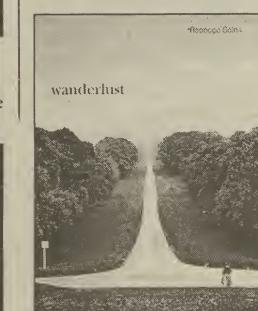
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Wanderlust: A History of Walking by Rebecca Solnit; Viking, \$24.95

Rebecca Solnit's thoughtful, thought-provoking, and delightful exploration of the seemingly mundane topic of walking, *Wanderlust*, was an entertaining and utterly compelling read, filled with facts and observations, written with elegance and eloquence. We walk, she explained, because we think, and "thinking is generally thought of as doing nothing in a production-oriented culture, and doing nothing is hard to do. It's best done by disguising it as doing something, and the something closest to nothing is walking."

The Limits of Justice by John Morgan Wilson; Doubleday, \$22.95

John Morgan Wilson did much more than tell a compelling story in *The Limits of Justice*, although plot alone was reason enough to recommend it. Wilson's characters, exquisitely complete and utterly believable, were people we all

CULTURE

Splitsville

◀ Arts cover

sexual behavior. The men will be flogged 52 times in 50 sessions, spaced two weeks apart. Next time you get pissed about MUNI, imagine your life in the Middle East and kiss the ground you walk on.

A rose by any other name: Meanwhile, in Vermont, Governor Howard Dean signed landmark legislation in May, giving homosexual unions all the same legal rights as heterosexual marriages.



Gay "civil union" in Vermont

These "civil unions" are the closest approximation to marriage currently available to gay people in the United States. However, for newly registered Vermont queer couples, the bill also effectively ends the simple, time-honored tradition of the gay divorce, heretofore accomplished in nanoseconds with declarations like, "Pack your bags and get your sorry ass out of my apartment." Queer Splitsville in Vermont now begins with, "Have your attorney call my attorney." But in September, the Netherlands one-upped the rest of the world by officially legalizing marriage between same-sex couples.



Sinead O'Connor: big surprise

Babe magnet: In June, Sinead O'Connor came out of the closet as a lesbian the same week her new album and single ("No Man's Woman") were released. Heterosexual men around the world breathed a sigh of relief, while lesbians everywhere wondered how O'Connor's stridency, buzz cut, and perpetual state of unmotivated anger could ever have been mistaken for heterosexuality. O'Connor's album, and single, went nowhere.

Son shine: In early August, Ron Reagan — heterosexual ex-ballet dancer and son of the former President — split with the Republican Party establishment. In doing so, he provided the definitive assessment of President-elect George W. Bush. "He's probably the least qualified person ever to be nominated by a



Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche, "America's favorite lesbian couple": It's over.

major party. Yes, he was elected Governor of Texas, and before that he ran a baseball team and lost a lot of other people's money in the oil business. But what has happened in the intervening five years to make people believe he'd be a good President? What is his accomplishment? That he's no longer an obnoxious drunk?" Throughout Dubya's long, lackluster campaign, no one summed up the sleazoid GOP nominee's shortcomings as concisely as Ron Reagan.

Do you know the way to San Jose?: In September, America's favorite lesbian couple, Anne Heche and Ellen DeGeneres, split. Shortly after the "big discussion," Heche drove through the wilds of Fresno and rang the bell of an unsuspecting homeowner, who invited Heche, her favorite actress, inside. It was all great fun, with the new friends chatting and laughing, and trying on each other's shoes. But the accidental host realized something major was amiss with Heche and called the police. The lesbian in question was taken to a hospital for observation while rumors of an ecstasy overdose floated through the press. Heche, taking a page from the Darva Conger book, immediately sold her story, in autobiographical form, to *Scribner's*. But most amazingly, not even the tabloids flogged this story more than 15 minutes; it went away as suddenly as it arrived. Admirable restraint or homophobia?

Tough titty: Buxom airhead Anna Nicole Smith married 89-year-old oil billionaire J. Howard Marshall in 1994, when she was 26 and working as a stripper in a topless bar. One year later, he died and the relatives tried to cut Smith out of his estate. In September, a Federal judge awarded her \$450 million as Marshall's widow. Additional punitive damages will also be awarded. The family characterized the decision as "a miscarriage of justice." Female dot-com wannabes, working 70-hour weeks and turning up their noses at big-breasted bimbos, may want to re-think their life strategies.

Calling Ms. Jorgensen: Just before Christmas, scientists studying the salmon population of the Columbia and Snake rivers made a stunning announcement. Examining the fall run of Chinook salmon, researchers discovered the

majority of the females in their sample began life as males and, for some reason, changed their sex. One Washington State biology professor proclaimed, "I think maybe what this points out is there's a whole lot we don't know or understand right now." Another scientist remarked, "These results may explain in part the difficulties some salmon have had reproducing." No shit, Sherlock. The scientists floated several possible

explanations for the phenomenon: pesticides; environmental estrogen due to industrial runoff; or hydropower dams creating fluctuations in water temperature that can cause gender modifications in fish. Personally, I look to more universal and fundamental truths. Face it, girls always have more fun. Why, the moment I first saw Jennifer Lopez in that dress, I just wanted to run home and flush my penis down the toilet. Why should

fish be any different?

Here come da judge: It was late November when America met Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris — and it was loathe at first sight. Let's not talk about her blatant attempts to shitcan the recounts and certify Dubya as the winner, let's talk about Kathie. Although only 43, she sports the kind of makeup usually found only on geriatric Miami widows — foundation so heavy it cracks every time she speaks, and overly red lipstick — all topped off by a hairstyle age-appropriate only to undergraduates. Smug, sanctimonious, and clearly full of herself, Secretary Harris is the kind of woman who needs to be bitch-slapped regularly, if not daily. Now that they have what they wanted, the Bush team would be smart to toss her back into the Tallahassee swamp from which she emerged. Not since Linda Tripp has there been a woman so thoroughly and patently offensive. But it was just that kind of year. As Roseanne Rosannadana used to say, "It's always somethin." ▼



Katherine Harris: swamp thing

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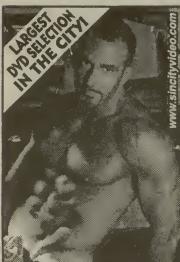
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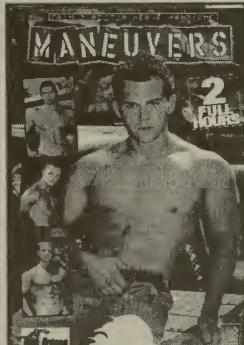
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Our primal urge

Porn of the year 2000

by John F. Karr

The American *Queer as Folk* is pretty heavy-handed, with neither the style nor warmth of the British original. But it still has its full share of surprising recognitions. Like every time the characters descend into the heat of the disco inferno, it makes me realize once again that Arthur Evans was right. We are the Bacchantae — the priests, the votives, the handmaids at the temple. And these are our Dionysian revels.

Our sexuality is another temple, and its revels are depicted in porn. At its best, porn demonstrates our ability to seize and rejoice in the instinctual urge with all unfettered glory. The way Brian does in *Queer as Folk*, when he swoops down on the cutie who will be his next collectible, making his friends wonder what his magic pick-up line can be. Whatever it is, his less aggressive pal Michael realizes, "He says it for all of us."

Porn says it for all of us, too. I was reminded of this, as I prepared to review the year's events

in porn, by a chance encounter with a fan whom I passed on the stairway of Davies Hall during intermission. "You're John Karr," he gushed, "I read you every week!" He asked if I was going to write about the symphony, and I said I wasn't sure it was my territory. But I remember the wobbly old fellow so well. We entered the john together, his lady walker relinquishing his arm as she said, "I have to leave you here." So I held the door for him.

He tottered over to the urinal next to mine, and delivered a classic monologue while fishing for his pecker: "When you're my age, you gotta go

even if you don't think you have to. Don't want any accidents in your seat. But the hardest part is finding it. When you're 82 years old, it's all shriveled up down there."

I diverted this line of conversation by asking how he was enjoying the concert, and he bubbled over, flushed with excitement at being so enjoyably sprung from his Senior Home for a few hours. After he'd enthused about the concert, I asked if he'd like me to walk out with him, and he shooed me off.

Yet I've remembered him, and not because he reads me weekly. Because he probably hasn't been able to have sex for years — and still wants to. It's just like Charlie Parker once said, after another unsuccessful attempt to quit shooting heroin. "You know, you can get it out of your body, but you can't get it out of your brain."

So that's what I want to celebrate at the year's end — the primal urge that won't go away, the urge that is celebrated in the (hopefully) Dionysian revel called porno.

Shadow dancing?

The criticism most often lobbed at porno was sounded in the second episode of *Queer as Folk*, by the character who watches it to assuage his lovesick heart. "Remember the characters in that story by Plato?" he asks. "Prisoners chained in a cave. All they could see was shadows on the wall, so after awhile they started thinking that was reality." Porno, he says, "makes you forget that all those perfect bodies and faces aren't real, that no one is really there, that they're only shadows."

That's a crippled criticism. Of course there are real people in those bodies and faces: our Brians, our Bacchantae, casting their beautiful shadows to lead us in a communal song of the sexuality that is our birthright.

This year's edition of the book that reviews "The Year in Sex," *The Best of the Superstars 2001* is now out (although, since it quotes my reviews at least ten times, I bought all four of the meager allotment of copies that Different Light had; the Jaguar still has a pile). Included is this quote from Michael Spillers, who wrote a play about the late porn star Joey Stefano. "Gay men have this weird ability to incorporate our pornography into our everyday lives — you don't see that with any other community. Porn booths at Pride events! Porn stars on parade floats! It's fashionable, it's com-

mercial, it's political."

And it's a good thing.

That's why I like writing about movies that honor the sexual urge. My chief complaint about porn isn't that it objectifies (it can), or replaces. It's just that porn is about something unconventional. So why is it almost always so conventional?

That's why I like those porn directors whose work centers without much diversion on the sexual spirit, directors who focus on their obsessions, leaving out the trappings of plot and dialogue to just present the action: that's where the song is, where the prayer is raised. Directors like Bruce Cam and Brian Mills at Titan, and, even more remarkably, Chris Ward of Raging Stallion. Directors who stand back and let the sex flow without too much interference. And that's why I like fetish/kink video, even when it depicts things I'm not capable of doing myself — because the guys are so focused on it, they take me there, too.

Great escape

So what are my favorites of the past year? The list began last January, with Steve Shannon and Rob Steel in a bisexual doozy called *Bi-Sexual Nation*. Another high point for me was meeting Tristan Paris. He'd been so hot in several Falcon videos that I sought him out for an in-depth interview. I guess I scared him, since he promptly took off for LA to make a bisexual movie, and has not been heard from again.

There followed lots of excellent Titan videos like *Eruption*, *Tag Team*, and the one I called "a prize of a porno," *Boner*. Another sizzler was Cadinet's *Street Boyz*. Then there were some strong films from a new company, Raging Stallion, focused with unflinching gaze and suave technique on extreme sex, although their *Sexpack 1* is fine for popular consumption, and the opening and closing scenes of *Sexpack 2: A Kinky Twist* are among my favorite individual scenes of the year.

My favorite video is Studio 2000's *Studio 2000's Restless* running a close second — but only because its star is my personal undoing. Sure, I tremble before sleazebags like Caesar and Rick Allen; the guys I'd most like to see doing each other in porn are Mark Wahlberg and Joaquin Phoenix; and the newly married man to whom I sing, "It should have been me" is Backstreet Boy Brian Littrell. But here's where the buck stops. For me, the Boy of the Year is Carlos Morales, first seen in *Stat-*

page 41 ►



Boy of the Year Carlos Morales

MUSIC

Assembly line 2000

Top 10 albums of the year, and more

by Gregg Shapiro

My greatest fear as a music reviewer has occurred. I have become one of those music critics who assembles an end-of-the-year "best of" list that appears to be so esoteric that most of the albums on the list will be recognizable to only a few in the so-called "cultural elite." Dear reader, I ask you for forgiveness and your indulgence. It wasn't intentional. More than anything, I want you to know that these really are, in my honest and most humble opinion, the best albums of 2000. I hope that you will find some familiar names among the ones on this complete list, and that you will trust me enough to take a listen to one or all of these albums. I've also put an asterisk (*) next to the queer artists, should you be so inclined to want to know that kind of information.

The top ten:

1. **The Aluminum Group, Pelo (Hefty)*** — Is it too soon to declare that the openly gay Navin brothers make the most intelligent modern pop music you are likely to hear this century?



k.d. lang: invincible

8. (tie) **Jeffrey Altergott, Icarus Grounded (USA) and Mark Weigle, All That Matters (Pet A Luma)*** — If there was ever a reason to have a gay male version of Lilith Fair, it would be so that Jeffrey Altergott and Mark Weigle could play the music festival.

9. **Josh Rouse, Home (Rykodisc)** — The return of the sensitive straight guy.



Joni Mitchell: covered

10. **Joni Mitchell, Both Sides Now (Reprise)** — What list would be complete without a little Joni? On her lushly orchestrated album of covers, she takes the time to cover herself, truly looking at "both sides now."

The rest, in this order:

Anthony Rapp, Look Around (Paigow)*

Various Artists, Forever Dusty (R&D Records)*

Le Tigre, Le Tigre (Mr. Lady)

Delgados, The Great Eastern (Mantra/Beggars Banquet)

Neko Case & Her Boyfriends, Furnace Room Lullaby (Bloodshot)

Radiohead, Kid A (Capitol)

Ida, Will You Find Us (Tiger Style)

Yo La Tengo, And then nothing turned itself inside out (Matador)

Marianne Faithfull, Vagabond Ways (Instinct)

Franklin Bruno, Kiss Without Makeup (Absolutely Kosher)

The Twilight Singers, Twilight As Played By The Twilight Singers (Columbia)

The Dandy Warhols, Thirteen Tales From Urban Bohemia (Capitol)

XTC, Wasp Star: Apple Venus Volume 2 (TVT)

Patricia Barber, Nightclub (Blue Note/Premonition)*

Judybats, '00 (Judybats)*

(tie) Aimee Mann, Bachelor No. 2 (SuperEgo) and Michael Penn, MP4 (Columbia)

Sinead O'Connor, Faith & Courage (Atlantic)*

Jane Oliver, Love Decides (Varese Sarabande)

The Go-Betweens, The Friends of Rachel Worth (Jetset)

Seely, Winter Birds (Koch)*

Verbow, Whiteout (Epic)

Cupcakes, Cupcakes (Dreamworks)

Red Elephant, More Sounds from Spaghetti Westerns (Aware)

The 6ths, Hyacinths & Thistles (Merge)*

John Wesley Harding, The Confessions of St. Ace (Mammoth)*

Robbie Williams, Sing When You're Winning (Capitol)

Elliott Smith, Figure 8 (Dreamworks)

Boss Hog, Whiteout (In the Red)

The Waxwings, Low to the Ground (Bobsled)

Janis Ian, God & the FBI

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Wrap 'em up

I have never hung with Britney Spears or the Backstreet Boys or even Elton John (who's more my generation), or anyone of their high-falutin' stature, yet not for a moment during the last year have I felt celebrity deprived. I like to think of all my friends as celebrities, and I'm eager to share them with you, since they are People To Watch in the New, True Millennium.

You'll be hearing, seeing and reading a lot of **Garrin Benfield**, a singer/songwriter whose folky, funky style, impeccable guitar playing, brilliant compositions, and engaging personality have captured him countless admirers, queer and otherwise. He and his photo-collage-artist husband **Joshua Smith** enjoy a huge circle of free-spirited, multi-talented friends, all of whom regularly flock to Garrin's concerts and Josh's art openings. Their marriage flourishes, as does their art, suggesting many more great concerts and art shows ahead. Look for Garrin at the next "Viva Variety" show (Jan. 23) at Theatre Rhinoceros.

To gain a solid reputation in this town as a painter, much less to become known far and wide, takes not only exceptional talent but solid work habits. Mexican painter **Tino Rodriguez**, long a denizen of Noe Valley, possesses these qualities in abundance, as evidenced by his successful shows at Yerba Buena Center, Belcher Street Gallery and elsewhere. Every day in his shared Victorian he spends at least eight hours painting his stunning, surreal unimaginably sensuous and decadent portraits of a Renaissance revisited through queer Mexican eyes. He pursues this line of work — his sole occupation — as diligently as a fine chef does haute cuisine, with perfection, style, and immense joy in his creation. He's also a hell of a fun guy out on the town, as his many devoted friends will tell you, and his hugely supportive family in LA and Mexico confess they're mighty proud of their successful son and brother. Two of his brothers are stars in the hot Latino rock band Idle out of LA.

In the world of underground electronic DJ music, no one earns my respect more than **DJ Logos**, my pal from our days of doing pirate radio and Solstice Parties, who dwells willingly in obscurity, spinning out his magical ambient/trance sounds for crowds far out of the mainstream (including those of the New Meat Campus Theater on Saturday nights). He may not yet realize it himself, but his star is on the rise. He's almost certainly going to be drawn into the spotlight of the ambient/trance scene simply because while the scene as a whole has become predictable, he in particular has not. The scene needs fresh air, and he's the breath awaiting. Also on that underground-to-above-ground horizon is **DJ Buttcup**, easily one of the best ambient technicians around.

I always expect my friends to be successful at whatever their endeavors, because that's their nature. But even though he has long been a mover and shaker in the photo-art world, never did I anticipate the kind of earthshaking global acclaim now being heaped upon my good buddy **Michael Light**, whose photo-novel and traveling art exhibit **Full Moon** have stirred the international art scene to an extraordinary degree. Mike's gorgeous book of NASA moonwalk imagery, which he painstakingly put together from

images he culled from long-neglected NASA archives and scanned to digital perfection, evidenced such a high degree of artistic vision and perfectionism that the work has been widely acclaimed not only in every major and minor art publication, but in extensive pieces in *The New Yorker*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Times Literary Supplement* and many other respectable publications, not to mention this one. Related museum exhibitions have taken place across Europe and the U.S. (including here at the SFMOMA), and most recently in Australia. This is the same Mike Light who serves on the board of New Langton Arts, and who firmly established his queer credentials by serving as executive producer of Cheryl Dunye's controversial lesbian-themed film *The Watermelon Woman*, which opened the 1996 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and proved an international indie-film hit. Mike and his cute Danish architect husband **Christopher Sharpe** and their many talented friends enjoy Burning Man as the ultimate immersive art installation.

Is it too-far-fetched to call my yoga and meditation teachers stars? Two of them have profoundly influenced my life and others, and deserve credit for hugely positive changes they engender in their communities. Both men operate well out of the mainstream, not tied down to any one institution or location, but both are well known in yoga circles and accessible to would-be practitioners. **Stuart Siegel** brought me to yoga and worked my butt off in the process, always with compassion. He continues ministering to the Ashtanga-yoga-craving masses, most often in private homes but occasionally at places like Castro Yoga, It's Yoga, and locales in the East Bay. Watch for his classes and jump at the chance to take one. More recently I started practicing with **Jeremy McCay**, a young, multi-tattooed, intensely focused teacher from Toledo, Ohio whose emphasis on gentle-but-firm Taoist healing techniques — including strengthening the spirit and flesh through deep breath-work and body-awareness — helped me kick a nasty nicotine habit. Though he's in huge demand by various yoga studios in town, Jeremy has resolutely remained independent, an exceptionally free spirit. Nevertheless you can expect to see him teaching classes at It's Yoga and elsewhere.

What can I say of **George Thomas** other than that he's a master of the art of making friends, and has made so many in SF it makes my head spin to think about it. We're all waiting to see what will happen with **The Crush Band**, his fledgling rock project, whether or not they will flee to LA as rumored. He's leaning that way, but the good vibes he's stirred up in SF will continue to ripple regardless.

Here at the *Bay Area Reporter*, where everyone I work with is gloriously talented, one person stands out — way out — from the masses: our very own glitz-rock transgender wonder **Adrian Roberts**, frontperson and whirling dervish of glitter-rock band **Blue Period**. Adrian swears he's never going to leave his position here as Art Director, even when he's a superstar. Yeah, right! When he and his band and their rocker pals launch "Glitz" at the Paradise Lounge — a monthly Saturday-night rock 'n' roll party starting in January — and after their album *Nightclub Casualties* finally goes platinum, chances are fair Adrian will be too busy being a rock-goddess/empresario to design for lowly us. Am I wrong on this? Of course he loves us and would never leave us — would you Adrian?

Just to be sure, we've ordered a pair of leg irons to be installed at his desk. ▼



Garrin Benfield



Painting by Tino Rodriguez

Sat

MacT Citihike

Men of All Colors Together take their monthly "rain, fog, or shine" outing through the streets of the city. Destination: Back to Yerba Buena. For the fit and fit-aspiring. Free. Meet 10:30am at Starbucks at Church & Market streets. Depart for destination at 11am promptly. Info: 675-0201; www.go/mactscita

Club Townsend

"Universe" wrings out the old and brings in the new with a special live performance by reigning dance-diva supreme Ultra Naté, together with the hot-house DJ sounds of Jamie J (flying in from London for this gig) along with local legend David Harness, plus Jeff Johnson in the backroom. A special \$45 weekend pass admits partiers to this dance and tomorrow night's "Pleasure-dome" dance (including VIP entrance). Universe only: \$20/\$25 door, 9pm-7am, 21+ w/d. 177 Townsend St. Tix at CD Record Rack, Body Body Wear (Castro), 1-888-TIX-ONLY, and Club Universe Box Office. Info: 289-6650; www.clubuniverse.com

Fri

Herbst Theater

"The Kinsey Sicks Live at the Herbst," including the world premiere of several new Kinsey Sicks songs. Recognized for their unique combination of a cappella singing, biting satiric wit, and over-the-top drag, the Sicks never tire of being called "America's favorite Dragapalooza Quartet." \$18 balcony; \$24 dress circle/box; \$30 orchestra. 8pm. Also on Dec. 30. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tic. City Box Office (392-4401) or BASS (478-2277). Info: www.kinseysicks.com

Justin Herman Plaza

"Critical Mass," in which thousands of bicyclists take to the streets en masse in a safe, fun-filled, non-competitive display of street theater.

Bring bicycle, tandem, unicycle, scooter, skates, or anything human-powered (cars definitely not allowed). Wear costume or don alternative identity. Make music and/or noise. Free. Gather at 5:30pm; depart at 6pm. Follow the park! Starting place located at the foot of Market St. (at the Embarcadero). Info: www.critical-mass.org

MacArthur Park Restaurant

SFWomen.com presents a "wild holiday blow out bash. Come help celebrate the end of 00 (oh, oh) and ring in 01 (oh the one). Bring your squeeze, your friends, or just yourself. Enjoy the fireplace, fire wines, and lots of women with whom to network, schmooze and socialize. With a no-host bar, appetizers, cocktails, and more. 6-10pm.

607 Front St. Info: 398-5700; www.sfwomen.com

Sun

Ellard Hall

MGM (Midlife Gay Men) host a New Year's Eve party for members and friends. Bring your own champagne for a midnight toast (refrigerated "bottle check" available); flutes supplied. \$10 donation. 9pm-12:30am. 100 Diamond St. (at 18th St.). Reservations: 430-2162 ext. 1385; via email: mgm-mhr@onebox.com

Davies Symphony Hall

New Year's Eve Gala concert conducted by Yves Abel, featuring soprano Lisa Wroman, tenor Greg Fedderly, and pianist Kevin Cole. Enjoy party favors and complimentary champagne. When the clock strikes midnight, 2001 balloons



foolsFURY's production of *The Illusion* at Marin Theatre company. See Thursday.

loons cascade from above. Dance on stage to Peter Mintun and his Orchestra and Soul University in the lobby. Come early for pre-concert entertainment featuring the Martini Brothers, psychics, mimes and caricaturists. \$85-\$140. 9pm.

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

In concert: Linda Tillery & Friends lead a two-hour Community Sing to welcome the New Year. Featuring singer Ronnie Gilbert, percussionist Jacqueline Rago, and storyteller Diane Ferlante, among other guest performers.

Tillery, founder of the Cultural Heritage Choir, is a proponent of African roots music. For this concert, the venue's concert hall will be turned into a living room; performers join the audience in the round. All welcome — bring your families. A Barbara Price production. \$20 adv.; \$23 door (children under 12 free; half price ages 12-17 & 65+). 2:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix/info: (510) 339-1532.

Asian Art Museum

"Sixteenth Annual Japanese New Year's Bell Ringing Ceremony." A 2,100-lb. 16th century bronze bell will be struck 108 times before midnight on New Year's Eve, symbolically welcoming the new year and curbing the 108 *bonno* or mortal desires which, according to Buddhist belief, torment humankind. Free with museum admission (\$7 gen'; \$5 seniors; \$4 youth; under-12 free). First toll strikes at 11am. Golden Gate Park. Info: 379-8800; www.asianart.org

Alcazar Theater

Eve Ensler performs "The Vagina Monologues," a play that brazenly explores the humor, power, pain, wisdom, outrage, mystery and excitement hidden in vaginas. \$45 for 3pm show; \$65 for 9pm show. 650 Geary St. Tix: 433-9500 or BASS.

Mason Street Theater

"Shear Madness," a hilarious whodunit set in a unisex hair-styling salon where a wacky murder has occurred. The audience gets to solve the crime. \$34. 6:30pm & 9:30pm. 340 Mason St. Tix: 982-5463.

Geary Theater

Tony-Award winning musical theater star Barbara Cook performs "Mostly Sondheim," accompanied by musical conductor and pianist Wally Harper. \$14-\$65. 7pm & 10pm. 415 Geary St. Tix: 749-2228; BASS; www.actsf.org

Ten15

"Spundae" welcomes the birth of the New Year with an extended closing set by internationally acclaimed trancelandance DJ Paul Van Dyk (Berlin, Germany) along with Adam Freeland (London, UK) and Jerry Bonham (Spunk/Nikita, SF). Plus Ellen Ferrato, Michael Anthony, Dave Coleman and Sen-See (live keyboards) and many more. Twelve hours of musical madness, confetti cannons, a midnight balloon drop, champagne toasting, full-spectrum lasers, and five dance areas of house, trance, breakbeats, disco and drum & bass. Opening ceremony by Jonathan Ojeda. Qoöl room hosted by Loön records and Jondi & Spesh; Qoöl visuals by Xian. 8pm-8am, 1015 Folsom St. Info: 974-9389; www.spundae.com

Space550

Gus presents "Superball: New Year's Eve 2001 San Francisco," featuring the epic house sounds of DJs Phil B (performing a 5-hour after-hours/morning set) and

Rene Yalam



The Kinsey Sicks (Irwin Keller as Winnie; Ben Schatz as Rachel; Chris Dilley as Trampolina; and Maurice Kelly as Trixie) return to Herbst Theater to charm and appall audiences with their slapstick "dragapella beautyshop quartet" musical escapade. See Friday.

Dawna Montel (LA), plus a live performance by Veronica ("Someone to Hold" "I'm In Love"). A 12-hour marathon circuit celebration featuring a huge laser, three dancefloors, party favors, videodrome, covered outdoor patio, and complimentary champagne and breakfast! \$50 adv.; \$60 door, 9pm-9am, 550 Barnaveld, Tix at Gold's Gym SF, All American Boy, and Body in SF. Info/tix: www.guspres.com

The End Up

"New Year's Marathon," a celebration with 40 hours of non-stop dance music featuring DJs Jason Lee Hayes, Larry Reed, Jorge Martinez, Ruben Mancas, Blackstone, Charlotte the Baroness, Nobel W., Jeremy, Adrian, Vince & Christine, Tracy, Jim Hopkins, Ellen Ferrato, and a very special 4-hour closing set by David Harness. Expect food, a midnight champagne toast, and a live performance by the incomparable Ethylina Cann. Cover charge TBA. 6am Sunday-9pm Monday. 21+ w/ID. Corner of 6th & Harrison Sts. Info: 357.0827; www.theendup.com

Club Townsend

"Pleasuredome" leaps into the New Year with high-energy sounds spun by top house DJs David Harness, Jamie J, and Jeff Johnson, plus Neil Lewis in the backroom. Expect a colorful venue packed with hot guys. A special \$45 weekend pass admits parties to this dance and the preceding Club Universe on Saturday night. Pleasuredome only: \$30/\$35 door, 9pm-7am. 21+ w/ID. 177 Townsend St. Tix at CD Record Rack, Body Body Wear (Castro), 1-888-TIX-ONLY, and Club Universe Box Office. Info: 289-6699; www.clubuniverse.com

Phoenix Hotel/Backflip Bar & Restaurant

Second Sunday Productions presents "Bubble Party." On the main stage (in the courtyard): Dave Wakeling (English Beat & General Public) playing with a full six-piece band. Supporting DJs will be David Harness & M3. In the Backflip Bar: Psycho-funkodiscodelic (Laron, Laird & Felix the Dog). In the Om VIP Lounge: Om Records DJs J. Boogie, Mei Luun, Sean Ferguson and SOS. \$75 adv. (includes champagne toast at midnight). 8pm-2am (GA). VIP Dinner 7-10pm. 21+ w/ID. 601 Eddy St. Tix: 776-1380.

Paradise Lounge

Queer glitz-rock band Blue Period (Adrian, Matt, PF, Swirly Rat Jr., and Tommy) and celo-rockers Deadweight loudly ring in the True Millennium. Balloons, glitter, party favors, complimentary champagne at midnight. \$20. Show starts 8:30 pm. 21+ w/ID. 308 11th Street (Corner of 11th St. & Folsom). Info: 601-TWEB; www.bottomfurtherhill.com

Bottom of the Hill

"New Year's Eve & New Millennium's Party" with kickass live bands Slojackson, Sister Double Happiness, and Waycross. 8:30pm. 1233 17th St. (btwn Missouri and Texas, at the bottom of Potrero Hill). Info/tix: 621-4455; (510) 601-TWEB; www.bottomfurtherhill.com

Pier 35

Anon Saloon, Oracle Muse and Party/Science conspire to create the "Sea of Dreams," featuring the spirited live music of Lost At Last (spirit trance from Maui) and The Venutians (East and West meet Outer Space). Also presenting Xeno (percussive aerial ballet), Stephen Kent (Aboriginal didgeridoo), Omnicircus (robotic pas de deux) and many others. Massive condom-pop and lingerie drop at midnight (BYO condom & lingerie). Dress up as your Dream Vision. \$50. Early parking on the Pier: \$10 (carpools encouraged). 8:30pm-4am. Bay and Embarcadero (away from the throngs). Info/tix: 978-2345; Streetlight Records; www.TicketWeb.com

Pound-SF

New Wave City DJs Skip & Shindog present "2001: A New Wave Odyssey," dancing to New Wave music of the late '70s and early '80s. Party favors; balloon drop; champagne toast; late-night food buffet. Pound-SF is a new venture by Cat Club owner Tony Carracci. \$12 adv.; \$30 door. 8pm-3am. Located at Pier 96, at end of Cargoway, off 3rd St. (btwn Cesar Chavez & Evans). Info: 675-LOVE; www.newwavecity.com

Tue

Strybing Arboretum

Exhibition opening: "The Gentle Whisper," Carol Witteman's dramatic photographs of botanical subjects enhanced with photographic oil pencils grace the walls of Strybing's Helen Crocker Russell Library, the only major horticultural library in Northern California. Free. 10am-4pm. Golden Gate Park. Info: 661-1316; www.strybing.org

New Meat Campus Theater

"The Other New Year's Ball 2001" — A huge New Years Eve bash at one of SF's premiere gay "adult" theaters, featuring DJ's, wicked entertainment, food, beverages, and naughty boys eating, drinking and watching entertainment while dancing naked and having sex to the music. \$20 door. Starts at 10pm;

goes to whenever. 220 Jones St. (at Turk). Info: 673-3384; www.newmeattheater.com

Mon

Metropolitan Community Church

Men of All Colors Together (MACT) host their 14th annual "John E. Teamer Black-Eyed Pea Dinner and Awards Ceremony," a festive meal based on the southern-American tradition of eating certain foods on New Year's Day in order to attract good luck and financial prosperity during the coming year. Today's catered event features southern-style fried chicken, black-eyed peas, greens, cornbread, yams, and peach cobbler, plus soft drinks. \$20 door. 8:30pm. 150 Eureka St. Phone: 675-0201. Email: mactsf@aol.com. Website: go.mactsfba

Tue

Gus Presents "Mass: the Recovery Party," a massive (of course) New Year's Day T-dance ritual featuring the superior sounds of DJ Phil B. (Aftershock) and DJ Frank Abraham (Circuit 2K). This supercasual recovery/pajama/coma party will feature food, movies, massage, and rehabilitation. Suggested attire: sweats, pajamas, sneakers, robes, slippers. \$20 at door only. 6pm-midnight. 1015 Folsom St. (at 6th St.). Info: www.guspresents.com

Wed

Roxie Cinema

Jean-Luc Godard's first feature film *Breathless* captures the essence of "B" gangster Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

films in this stylish portrayal of a hood (Jean-Paul Belmondo) on the run from the cops, along with his girlfriend (Jean Seberg). \$7, 8, 9, & 10pm (matinees at 2 & 4pm). 3117 16th St. (at Valencia). Info: 863-1087; www.roxie.com

Thu

Marin Theatre Company, Mill Valley

Preview: FoolsFury's production of Tony Kushner's 1990 play *The Illusion*, adapted from *L'Illusion Comique* by Pierre Corneille. Directed by Ben Yalom. Deep in the sorcerer Alcandre's cave, the hard-hearted father Pradamant seeks absolution, and news of the son he forced out of his house years ago. What he finds instead are three stunning visions of the young man's life, each altered slightly from the last. A comedy of fairy-tale simplicity evolves into a rich, layered tragedy. \$20 (\$15 adv.); \$17 seniors; \$10 students. Thu-Sat at 8:15pm; 7:30pm Sun. Thru Jan. 28. Sali Leiberman Studio Theater, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. Info/tix: (415) 388-5208; www.foolsfury.org

A Traveling Jewish Theatre

"Borscht Belt by the Bay," offbeat comedy by humorists Sara Felder, Lisa Geduldig, and Betsy Salkind, performing in the Yiddish-filled stand-up tradition of the Borscht Belt. "Featuring shtick, juggling, wisecracks, clowning and satiric commentary. \$22.50. 8pm Thu-Sat; 2 & 7pm Sun.) Thru Jan. 14. 470 Florida St. (btwn 17th & Mariposa). Info: 399-1809.

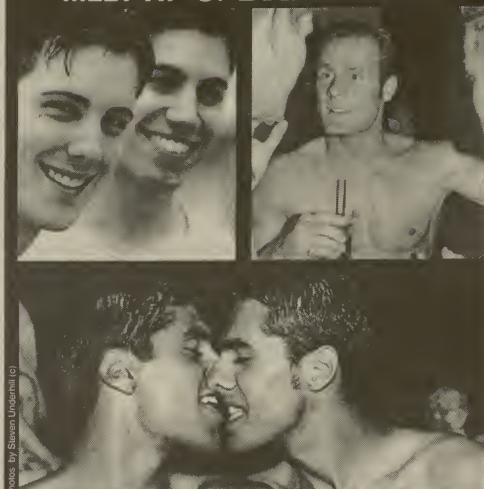
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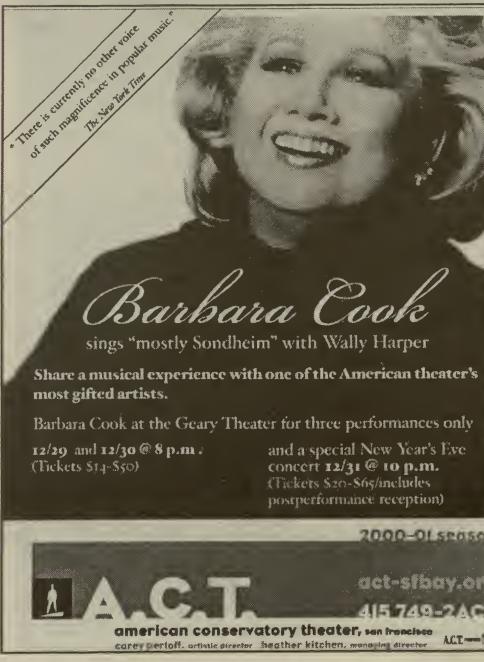
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DITA will be signing her calendars at the Howard location, December 29th from 3:00-7:00pm. Be there!!

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Thanks for the memories — part II Season of celebrations

by Mister Marcus

They say time flies when you're having fun, and boy has it whooshed by! Here we are in the final hours of the year 2000, and it seems like only yesterday we were all young bucks and the leather scene was still in its infancy. Some of us are older now (I won't mention names), but for young and old alike Leather Pride shines strong and vibrant all over the land, wherever leather people live and play. And we're good to one another, too, going out of our way to give back to the gay community at large: I would venture to say that, collectively, leather people have raised a million dollars for charitable causes, benefiting people all over the world.

At times, I know, it seems like we are nickel and dimed to death, but in the end, it all shakes out that those less fortunate benefit the most. Giving is caring. Countless people you will never know or meet will have an easier time of it because of your caring and sharing — so keep staging those fundraisers, buying those raffle tickets, and even bidding on things you will never use or really don't need. To all of you who work in the trenches, cleaning up, hauling things, cooking food, serving beer, and all the other "little" chores that need to be done: Thank you. What a beautiful family we live in!

The last six months of 2000 were not without compelling moments. Here's a peek at just some of the events that transpired:

July

There was the Castro Lions annual Leather Auction with much success.

The Bay Area submissive group came into being.

Pam Meyer traveled to Toronto to pass the sash to another California leather woman. This time the title was awarded to Jo Blas of San Diego, and she is on the circuit big time already.

Harry Lit's Lazy Bear Weekend up at the Russian River was a resounding success.

Rod Wood and Terry Gauchat won the Northern California Drummer titles and Rod McKim was given an Unsung Hero Award.

Daniel Clark won the Great



The first-ever elected Intl. Mr. Drummer, Ray Perea (standing, right), welcomed Daniel Clark (standing, left) and Boy Richie (kneeling) to the IM Drummer and Drummer Boy family last September in Florida.

Lakes Drummer title in Columbus, Ohio. You all know what happened to him in St. Petersburg, Florida in September!

Keith Truitt was named SF Leather Daddy XVIII.

The Dore Alley Fair again racked up another attendance record. "Is it time for a new location?" is being asked all over the place.

August

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Mark D'Aleo won the Mr. Florida Drummer title and Efrain Nunez was named the Drummer Boy.

Leather Extravaganza 2000 by Glennon Sutter was a smashing success and the "Who Murdered Donna Sachet" experience was an

other novel fundraiser. I never did find out who "done" her in!

I traveled to Atlanta for the Southeast Leather Fest and the Southeast Drummer & Boy contests and the International Master & Slave contests. Once there, medical problems precluded my attendance at the actual contests, but I managed to bring you the photos of Larry Cottrell and Bruce Tidwell, Mr. SE Drummer and Drummer Boy.

Steve of Palm Springs and his boy were named Intl. Master and Slave. It was a great experience to be on a panel with Mr. Frank Puckett.

In Hayward, Jeff Miranda and Bianca Vigil were named Mr./Ms. Alameda County Leather.

It was announced that Mr.

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, December 29-January 1

Philadelphia MC in Philly present "A Pig Odyssey" at their Tri-Cen XV weekend. For details, email: philadelphiansmc@aol.com

Sunday, December 31

It's New Year's Eve! A Leather Masquerade Ball at the Russian River Eagle with the usual champagne, hats, fun. Call (707) 869-3400 for details.

At the Powerhouse, nostalgia rules with a "Return to the Brig" style celebration. Tixkets \$5 advance, \$10 door or FREE before 2200. Wet jock strap contest and all the usual holiday favors.

Wednesday, January 3

Leathermen's Discussion Group at 1930 at Club Eros. The subject is "The Art of Piercing," featuring Daddy Roger and boy David of Gotham.

Sunday, January 7

Final six bare-chest calendar guys get auctioned off for dinner dates and other goodies at the Eagle,

1500-1800, in an \$8 beer bust, with Lenny Broberg doing the auctioning and Keith Truitt doing the Vanna duties. Don't miss this one!

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, 1600-1900, for \$7. The usual fun with the Guards.

Wednesday, January 10

The Ring's "Creative Use of Plastic Wrap" meeting. For info and location, email: therling@ix.netcom

Thursday, January 11

Mr. January 2002 on the Bare Chest Calendar will be selected tonight at the Powerhouse, at 2100. Win \$100, fame, dates, service!

Weekend, January 12-15

Centaur MC Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, DC — early this year due to inauguration. Tom Robinson passes the sash to a successor. Always a great leather weekend in the capital!

Bye bye, Boom Boom

by Sweet Lips

Although the official party was earlier this month, the final farewell for bartender John ("Boom Boom") Pearson will be Saturday, December 30 at 8 p.m., when he tends his very last shift. Stop by the Club R-V to make him work those last cocktails - ask him for a blended drink!

The popular Jerry Elrod is now the Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. bartender at the Giraffe Video Lounge.

Welcome in the new year at the Club R-V on Sunday, December 31, with finger food, champagne and party favors. There will be a special midnight strip show featuring the Men of Exotica.

The very next day (if you don't sleep through it), on Jan. 1, Grand Duke Greg Osman and Grand Duchess Angelina Josephina Manicotti will be announcing the "Royal Baby" winner at the Club's "Hangover Brunch" at 1 p.m. We'd better install a diaper-changing



"Sisters again": Sweet Lips (left) and Greta Grass have patched it up.

table in the rest room!

The fabulous Marne of Portland will be here in SF for the New Year's weekend, celebrating his birthday on Jan. 1. Watch out, Castro and SoMa!

Guess you know by now that I just spent some time in the hospital, but am now back to work at the Club Rendez-Vous. Here's wishing one and all a very prosperous New Year. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Leather of All California would be staged during Leather Pride Week 2001.

September

Southern Decadence in New Orleans was the first big event of the month. The Lords of Leather are the masters of "southern hospitality" and this time the Mr. Louisiana Leather contest was staged in Harrah's, the big casino in the South. In the end, Todd Cole of Baton Rouge won the title.

Bob Dern was chosen as SF Leather Daddy's Boy XVIII on Labor Day weekend, and with Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt producing, the Leather Pride Walk raised a record amount.

International Mr. Drummer 2000 made its debut in St. Petersburg, Florida at the Sun Coast Resort with a big splash and a record turnout despite hurricane warnings. Eight men and eight boys vied for the title and when it was all over, Daniel Clark of Indianapolis became the Drummer man and Boy Richie of Phoenix was named Intl. Drummer Boy.

Leather Pride Week in San Francisco saw thousands of "pilgrims" arrive for the Folsom Street Fair. Lance Gear's IML 2000 Reunion Party was a highlight, and former IML Amy Marie Meek got "officially" married to former IMLs, Megan DeJarlais, Buck Rogers and Black C were chosen Int'l. Mr. and Ms. Deaf Leather. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised for charities all week, and another record crowd attended the fair — with great weather all day.

October

Hundreds of people stayed

over for the Castro Street Fair, just a week after Folsom, ensuring another big turnout for that event.

In Louisville, Kentucky, Mike White, Mr. Great Lakes Drummer '99 staged the Great Lakes Leather Conference, with the Mr. Louisville Drummer contest and Ms. Kentucky Leather won by Don Palmore and Sinsky Moon, respectively. Joseph Bean made his famous "speech" which still has tongues wagging. Drummer Magazine announced their new website, and Alan Selby was the recipient of the first Alan Selby Award, one that will be awarded every two years to a "fun" dedicated leather person;

The Utica Tri's MC managed to snag some big names for their annual gathering in Upstate New York with a big weekend that produced the 2nd Mr. North Atlantic Leatherman (Bob Epp) and NA Leather Boy Don Freeman. Bob competes at IML and Don at ABW in April.

Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear celebrated his 30th on Friday, April 13th with a big turnout and another "shower" show.

Jada Halsten was named Ms. Gay SF and Phillip Evans was named Mr. Gay SF Russ Libby's "Sling" parties celebrated a 9th anniversary and in Sacramento, the Valley Knights MC celebrated their 24th as did the Alameda County Leather Corps. Highlight of the month: SMMILE presented checks totaling \$265.00 to their beneficiaries. Now that's Leather Pride!

November

Canada took the spotlight early on with the Mr. Ottawa-Hull contest won by Norm Miller. In Toronto, Peter Theodoropoulos won the Mr. Leatherman Toronto title in an elaborate production engineered by MLT, Inc.

Melanie Toews was named Ms.

San Diego Leather.

Still no photo of Mr. Palm Springs Leather.

T. Jay Cain was named the first Mr. North Coast Leather at the Russian River Eagle and Anna Macias was named Ms. Russian River Leather.

Daddy's Bar celebrated its 5th anniversary and Glennon Sutter was named Daddy of the Year and Vince DiCola was Employee of the Year.

Glen Fidi was named Mr. Santa Clara Co. Leather and Gwen Evans was named Ms.

Tracy Roche was named Mr. Palm Springs Leather — and still no photo of him!

December

Parties galore and some people were miffed that in spite of the fundraisers they held for various organizations, they were not invited to the celebrations! Poof!

The Forum of SF Christmas party at the Powerhouse was well attended, as was the SMMILE party at Harvey's.

Final 15 Association, Leather Buddies, Sling Parties and other group events were staged. It was another month of celebrations.

We finally learned who our next president would be, and weren't impressed.

District elections looked like a new face for neighborhoods.

Parties for New Year's Eve were being advertised all over the place.

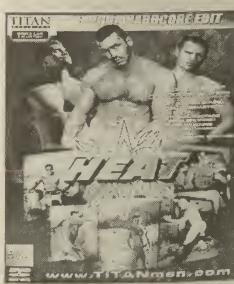
Up, up and away!

Here's hoping your Christmas festivities were all that you wanted them to be, and that the coming "Year of the Snake" brings you good fortune. I've looked deep into my crystal ball (no jokes!) and the future looks promising if you're a leather person. Next year should be fun-filled, rewarding, and better than ever. See you all in the New Year! ▼

scene that one-ups Chris Ward at his own game, some splashy water sports, a romantic shower, and a short subject look at the guys backstage.

Whether it's in action, vision, or thought, have a sexy New Year. ▼

Have you ever read a porn column with a footnote? Here it is: Arthur Evans' *The God of Ecstasy* (St. Martin's Press, 1988) is currently out of print.



Porn

◀ page 36

en Island Sex Cult, and then, at breathless length, in Restless.

But my real favorite of the year is the medium of DVD, which enhances porn in every way. And the porn DVD of the year, with glorious sound and color and long, long scenes of uninterrupted lovemaking, is Titan's Heat. The DVD is loaded with extras — a dildo



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PARTING GLANCES

David Designer From Oakland
Martini's Monday 11/6. I was going to dinner with my boyfriend, you with your brother. I am now single. Wish we had talked more. Call me. ☎ 72613

"Got Candy?"
You: Black guy riding 38 Geary 11-12 5:30pm. We both got off at Presidio. Looked for you and lost you. Me: blue backpack. Call me! ☎ 72614

Thai House On Market Fri 11/10
Your smile made for difficult dining, maybe next time we can be seated at the same table? ☎ 72615

Glaces At The Rhino 10/15
You: tall Asian w/ khaki cap; me white in purple shirt. Exchanged glances across the audiences, waves after the show, matinee on 10/15. ☎ 72616

Gdking Guy Driving Black Jetta
Wednesday 11/8 at 4:45pm north bound on 19th Ave. Short beard beautiful smile. Me, flat top, driving silver Dalhatsu, racing thru traffic. Call me! ☎ 72617

Handsome Grayhair Man At Zuni
11/9, 6pm, across from each other in bar. You met friends for dinner. I met friends for drinks. We exchanged glances, and smiled when you left after dinner. I think you're sexy. Diner at Zuni sometime? ☎ 72618

Lyle And Evan Burritos On 24th St
Hey buddy- enjoyed our time, let's get together. ☎ 72633

VA Hospital Cowboy
I saw you in lobby we nodded to each other. I'd really like to talk interested? Call. ☎ 72634

Dore Castro St. Tues 11/14 9pm
We chatted- would like to continue conversation and catch up. Please call, Bill. ☎ 72635

Trader Joe's Friday 11/10
We smiled at check-out, you turned as you made your exit. Me: WM, tall, black jacket, goatee; you: BM, glasses, short hair. Wanna meet for coffee? ☎ 72636

"Fuzzylogic" Opening 11/17
You were upstairs. Me down. We smiled. No time then to talk. Have time now. Call me. ☎ 72651

Day B4 Tgiving Bart 1pm
You: tall, red shirt w/2 women. Me: shorter w/1. Brown hair, glasses. You got off at 16th/ Mission & said "so long". Wanna meet? ☎ 72653

Blow Buddies Sun Nov 19
You: No clothes, shaved head, goatee, working over stud on chair. Me: bushy mustache, Levi's, green, blue coca-cola sweatshirt. Let's meet? ☎ 72655

The Rhino, 10/15 Matinee
You: Tall Asian in khaki cap, sat with friends. Me: White in purple shirt, sitting alone. Exchanged glances in the theater, waved afterwards walking away. ☎ 72656

A. H. Fitzgerald
We shared one afternoon of unbridled passion in S.F. Circumstances stopped me from contacting you afterward. Hoping to rekindle the flame. C. ☎ 72657

Home Depot Sun 11/26 8:30pm
You: tall, dark, thin, white sweatpants. Me: short, dark, mustache, jeans. Too struck by your good looks to speak. Call if ok with HIV+. men. ☎ 72658

18th & Castro Shirtless Dancer Oct 31
You were on bus stop booth with no shirt, dancing. It was Castro Halloween. I screamed at you. I wore a devil shirt. Interested? ☎ 72680

Sun 11/26 Jubilee Cafe
You in yellow shirt, if not engaged, would like to meet! ☎ 72654

Met At Powerhouse!
You, blond, 23, Musician, DJ, Dolcom, me, 53, Princeton, Howard Johnson's. Let's create magic. ☎ 72681

19 Polk 12:30 Tues Aft 11/21
Blond, 30s, newspaper. You: 30s, also in leather jacket, v. handsome, sat w/m. Asked time, you thought I was leaving; U smiled, said "take care" when I did, @ Market. Mutual friction? ☎ 72652

The Cafe, Sat Nov. 25
You: cute smile blue shirt, dark hair goatee, pool table upper bar. Me: blk hair, blk goatee dk red sweater w/stripe. Would like to see you again, call me. ☎ 72699

Fifth & Sixth Fused
Maybe more in common. Three of us in your Miata from Power Exchange to my house. Wanted you to stay. ☎ 72700

Just Back From New Zealand
11/27 we sat next to each other on the plane from LA to SF. Would like to talk to you again. ☎ 72726

Eye Contact, "The Bar"
You Italian-Latin we made eye contact at, "The Bar", 12/9 said hi when I saw you walking on Castro w/m roommate. Dinner. ☎ 72727

UCBerkeleyPerimeterBus 12/7/5p
Our stop Bart. Me: jeans, grey coat guy with friend in back. You: grey sweater, cargo pants guy. Our eyes met. You smiled as you left the bus and I smiled. ☎ 72701

White Vespa Boy, One Year Ago
Eastbound on 18th, late afternoon 12/21/99. Me: leather jacket, Honda, spaced when you pulled over despite your sparkling fuck-me stare. Call if this isn't too bizarre (or bizarre enough). ☎ 72702

Vincent-Thu11/30 Daddys+Detour
We talked about movies and I enjoyed kissing you. Your are very cute. I would still like to watch "Less Than Zero", with you, maybe more kissing too! Pls call. Eric. ☎ 72703

SFO Open House Lufthansa
You busy臺灣 passport. Me-with friend and not able to say hello. Too late to get my stamp? How about coffee or dinner? ☎ 72724

David, Nurse, Live By Ocn Bch
We went out a few years ago. Saw you at Stacey's Books last month-wanted to say hi, but didn't know how to start; can we have coffee? Ken. ☎ 72725

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 72619

Asian Guys In Stockings
Asianie and heels turn me on! Butch WM, 40, 6 ft 2, 200lb, seeks HIV+ dream girl with wardrobe for dating, sex fun. Be sweet, sincere. ☎ 72620

Please...
Fuck me hard, then watch your beautiful cock into my hot throat for romance with White top 30-50. Scorpio, , Cancer, Ariels preferred. Thank you. ☎ 72636

Shy Cute German 34yo Top Artist
Blond, hairy, 6'1", 160 uncut, ISO crazy-like Asian, Black, Latino, or other for unlimited fun! Horny? Don't wait call me now. ☎ 72637

Bi-Monthly Visitor
Slim masculine WM 43 would like to meet the same or younger for talks, walks, films, meals, and naked intimacy, on weekends. ☎ 72638

"I Need Your Vote(s)!"
To win Bay Area best cocksucker crown (I'm ex-captain USA's Olympic cocksucking team!) Knock-off-a-few demos for you/ buddies: let's get it/hit, out/ up/ off! ☎ 72639

How About Some Bump & Grind?
GGM top 50 GWM bottom 50ish for hot sex and hanging out at my place, must be beefy and enjoy taking it. Smoke and aroma A+. ☎ 72660

Seeking Big Ones
Handsome GWM- blk/hazel: great body. Sweet ass. Seeks GWM with a big one to plow, deep & slow. No disappointments. ☎ 72662

Hi, My Name Is Ralph J. Torres
I am looking for someone to be a bi-male. I am a 18-24 years old. I am a bi-male. I am a top looking for a bottom that love sex. ☎ 72731

Nellie Top ISO LTR
Single GWM 49 HIV- top fra/p 6' 200# smoker non gym big hearted, grounded looking for single gay male w/good nature and cut tool for BJ, ass plowing, romance. ☎ 72706

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 72705

SF 69er Sought
Me: GWM 49 5'9" lean athletic (runner, biker) 6'cut HIV- bearded bald witty friendly enjoys quiet.

Seeks: similar clean, low-key younger man for mutual oral sex. ☎ 72706

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is TUESDAY at 5 PM, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

GWM, 25, 6'2", Slim, Attractive
W/ quick, cynical mind, wildly varied interests, sees similar: HIV-, don't need to respond to ads, mature. Non Castro clones, good personality, be interesting. 23-27. ☎ 72664

Not Looking For A 10
Not even a 7. What I am looking for is an average guy 30 & 40? Oriental? White? This 48yr. W/M in S.J. would like to meet you. Let's do some dating and if it works out, start a long term relationship. You must be willing to relocate. ☎ 72682

HIV+ Black Male Or Latino
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue 5'10", 150lbs versatile bottom. 44rs genuinely honest and loving, you be the same. I live in Paradise near Chico, am willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 72683

Seeking Other Hardbodies
5'9-145 38c 29" w/wash brd, abs smooth, tan, handsome, 47y.o. seeks same for ltr. Sex, & wrk out. ☎ 72684

European GWM
25, 5'10", 165 seeking committed, honest, sensitive, intellectual GWM, 27-35 for monogamous ltr. No gym, docomo, feminine types. Seriously only! ☎ 72685

Bruiser Bottom Wanted
Older but hung topman wants a husky bottom guy flat on his back, legs in the air, ready for a raw pounding. Moustache/ but no other facial hair/a turn-on. ☎ 72686

Mongomous Muscular Man
Seeks GM for dating in S.F. I'm Asian, young 50+, 150#, HIV-, neg, into working out, body worship/tit play. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 72687

Looking For Real Nice Fun Mate
Handsome, youngish, HIV-. 25-50 GWM/half Colombian. Fun, cuddly, spontaneous, sexier than bar scene, loves music U-drk hair, drk eyes, warm heart, attractive, witty. ☎ 72688

Class Act 4 Same
GL professional, 50s, tall and shaved, bright, humorous and playful, enjoys cooking, theatre and the arts, sexually versatile, seeks man of quality for dating and ltr. Life is to share. ☎ 72734

Quality Asian-American, 34, 5'8"
Slim, gym-toned, Independent, stable, down to earth. Interests include gardening, travel, reading, learning. Seeking friendship and possible ltr. Prefer 28-40. Race unimportant. Sincere only please. ☎ 72707

Easteuro Man Seeking Thai Man
In shape, 38 years, 5'9", about 164# Eastern European man seeking Thai man about my age (30-40). ☎ 72728

Loved To Be Fucked
By Asian and Latino men on LTR. I'm 6'2", GWM 165lbs. We won't be disappointed. We can have sex many times in the future. Yours. ☎ 72729

HIV+ Black Men Or Latino
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue 5'10", 150lbs versatile bottom. 44rs genuinely honest and loving, you be the same. I live in Paradise near Chico, am willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 72730

I Know You're Out There!
Handsome, healthy, HIV+, successful, 40-something, muscular guy, 5'10", 165lbs, who enjoys life with comic intensity. Looking for someone my age or younger for passionate relationship. ☎ 72732

Stocky WM, 48 Weeks BM Within SF
Bay Area. Professional home-loving guy with wide interests seeks same. HIV- 5'7", 220bs. No substance abusers please. ☎ 72733

Classy Hdms GWM 36 Weeks TLR
Me- attractive masculine 6'1", 180, 44" chest, 32" waist, HIV+ neg. Taller/student, tired of bar scene, loves music U-drk hair, drk eyes, warm heart, attractive, witty. ☎ 72621

Class Act 4 Same
GL professional, 50s, tall and shaved, bright, humorous and playful, enjoys cooking, theatre and the arts, sexually versatile, seeks man of quality for dating and ltr. Life is to share. ☎ 72734

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Masculine Manpussy 4 Hung Tops
White male, 35, loves to party, seeks domination by 1 to 4 thick hung tops. Me, oral, versatile, in-shape, nice cock. Possible bondage/dildo/F.I. I love come. East Bay A+. ☎ 72622

Poz GBM Sks GWM Top
38, 165lbs, 6ft, smooth, masculine but submissive behind closed doors. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 72623

"I Am One Of A Kind!"
My throat is like butter- deep throat-ed bottom, 37, tatts, shaved head(-) 185bs seeks masculine man to service(-). ☎ 72624

"Spank Me!" Cute Little Fratboy
24 needs over the knee action from dominant big brother or daddy. Gym body in the Castro. Bottom boy. ☎ 72625

ISO Poz Marin/Sonoma FuckBuddy
For fun or poss. Itr. 51yo GWM, 5'10", 160bs, s/buzz, moustache, uncult ISO earthy guy who enjoys vers., oral sex and fucking a hot bottom. ☎ 72626

Total Anal Bottom Bear
Caucasian, 49, stocky, 5'10", 195#, talented asshole for your fucking pleasure! Shaved head, hairy, beard on my belly-waiting for you to cum, on top of me! ☎ 72627

Asian Top
Sought by healthy, muscular, athletic, attractive poz GWM. 6', 165lb, 47y.o. Safe only. Fun for sure. ☎ 72640

"Top, Wants To Be Topped!"
Blue collar max WM 45 looks about 41, smooth, broad shoulders, must/Van Dyke side burns/ seeks very hairy slender to bed/build under 5'6" to take control. HIV- ☎ 72641

Bottom Hot Latino 30's Likes To Suck a big dick, also get fucked. Redwood City area. Nice ass, nice legs. Please call me. ☎ 72624

Hot White Bottoms Need By
White top, 6'0", 56ys old, drk brn hair, eyes glasses 9" dick, 160lbs. Want to fuck hot young White men under 40. Leave message. ☎ 72643

Handsome Hung Italian
Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 72644

Hot Cock And Ass 4 U
White versatile, E/B, slender, 5'8", 155, 50's HIV-, seeks tops with 6'7" and slender, hairless bottom, HIV-, safe sex, no drugs, any age, race or marital status. Asian A+. ☎ 72645

Bottom Need's F.F.
Ball's need S/M, be tormented, ass needs spanking and exploring. I am clean HIV- bi WM 5'2", 120 shaved, and a experienced cocksure, stay over nite. Sacramento, aroma/herbs L/A ok. ☎ 72708

SR GWM ISO Mature GBM
For massage J/O, I'm 5'9" 155#-affectionate average cut, bearded. You're 45+ fit/healthy. Medium to beefy. Shaved head, facial hair A+. ☎ 72665

Bodybuilder Phone J/O
Bodybuilder into bodywork, muscles, flexing. Posing, weightlifting, wrestling, in jock or posing trunks, nude. With your fantasy, 5'9", 195, 46ch, 16a. ☎ 72666

"Got Cheese!"
GWM 50+, 6' loves man smells any age race, 7' or more. Long over a real plus. ☎ 72667

Dominant Older Man Will Train
A gdk's submissive 18-40 boy to serve him as a son/or & slave. I'm its respected. On-going preferred. Daddy-master is mid 70's, atrr; young looking and acting. ☎ 72668

Hunk Underwear Fanatic Sks Same
Hairy, built GWM seeks similar SF hunk for mutual underwear fetishes, nipp/ball work, long 69 sessions. I'm 5'11", 180, 50, totally oral, healthy poz. You're hairy chested, tall in-shape, 40+, totally oral too. Prefer average size dick. Let's get it on while wearing, trading, sniffing, talking about our boxers, briefs, jockstraps. Repeat desired if chemistry, attraction, compatibility. ☎ 72669

I Love My Dad/ 5'9" 200lbs 42
GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate & cute. Must have fun & outgoing personality. ☎ 72670

Looking To Service Older Guys
Healthy HIV+ GWM, 40, br/bl, 165lbs, 5'8" in Oakland, wants to service guys 46-60. Muscular, hairy, hung, well-built A+. ☎ 72671

Kinda Shy Guy
HIV+ Black male, 42, medium build, enjoy movies, dancing, walks at night, playtime-always! Looking for 38-up, HIV+ males looking for someone like me. All types welcome. ☎ 72672

Free Massage
From bottom daddy, GWM, 42, 6', 165lbs. Ita/Germ, brown/hazel, beard given to lean top boy 18-35. Dark hair and/or facial hair a plus. ☎ 72691

East Bay Mature Academic
Appreciative of nude male body seeks gay, straight, bi exhibitionist or curious, 25-50, for private encounters his peaceful private home. ☎ 72692

Heavyset Men
WLM 45, 160lbs, moderately hry. I'm attracted to husky/heavyset men who enjoy lots of hugging, kissing & oral action. Facial hair A-. Not into gay lifestyle. ☎ 72693

GAM 30's Back In Town
Looking for GWM 30-43 for hot times. If interested please call. ☎ 72694

Sexy Older (54-67) For Cutes 28
East Bay, athletic, slim, trim, 6', 160# with satin smooth skin and bubble buns youngster 28 seeks naughty older men. Younger Latinos welcome. ☎ 72709

Into Rimming?
Have a lover, seeking a rimming buddy for mutual ass eating. Me: GWM, 53yrs, 5'8", 175#. You: GWM and discreet. Clean, no scat, your place in SF only. HIV+. ☎ 72710

A Rubbery Adventure
Attractive blonde, mid 40's, HIV positive, seeks similar W/male to explore the rubber scene. I've got lots of leather-and rubber gear. You should too. East Bay/S.F. ☎ 72711

Dry Face Needs Hot Cum Bath
Masculine W/M 58 seeking senior citizens. Let me get between your legs and jerk off your cock directing your cum all over my face. ☎ 72712

I'm Lost In Orlando!
Formerly known as "Pete" in the window on Sanchez Street, I have relocated to Orlando. If you're planning to visit, leave me a message. I'll give you what you need! ☎ 72713

Dominant Male, 39 Seeking
Part time house slave. Must be detail oriented & eager to please. Age & looks not important. ☎ 72714

Big, Husky, Chubby, Fat
Bodybuilder into bodywork, muscles, flexing. Posing, weightlifting, wrestling, in jock or posing trunks, nude. With your fantasy, 5'9", 195, 46ch, 16a. ☎ 72715

Big Dick Top Seeks Hot Bottom
GWM, 6'7", 185 brn/gn with big fat dick looking for cu guys who like a big cock up their butt. ☎ 72716

Handsome Slim Dad, 54, Holds U
And caresses a boy. You blow me. I put it in you if you want it. Masturbate & kiss you. Young, slim only. ☎ 72717

Flold Bldg Buddy Wanted
Professional GWM, working in Flood Building, is looking for a building buddy for AM coffee, drinks after work, sex over lunch (not necessarily in that order). ☎ 72718

Kick Back And Enjoy
Free erotic massage and/or oral service by muscular, handsome, long-haired GWM. Trim or in shape a must, longhair or alternative types A+. I'm a nice guy. UBZ. ☎ 72735

I Like Sensual Bondage
Lean, athletic, friendly guy, 45, sees partner for sensual bondage, flogging, role playing. Reciprocation if desired. ☎ 72736

FF Top Want FF Bottom
SWM 50's HIV- looking for FFB GWM HIV- for pleasure and fun-aroma herb ok. ☎ 72737

Athletic, Masculine, Witty, Asian,
53, 5'8", 155, sees similar clean-shaven, lean/muscular, in-shape WM for adventurous companion and fun times. ☎ 72738

Bi Black Man
I am 46 year old, non smoker or drug. I need someone, any race with big 8+ men for long tr. ☎ 72739

Attractive, Smooth, Athletic Asian Guy
wants to receive long firm, erotic, full body, head to toe oil massages from experienced or licensed masseurs. I enjoy having my chest, butt, legs, cock, balls, etc. massaged. I also enjoy bondage; having my hands and feet tied up while massaged, etc. ☎ 72740

FETISHES

F.F My Little Ass
Bi WM needs be F.F. slow live in Woodland. I'm HIV- very clean and great cockslucker. Like S/M, toys, video's, aroma/herbs, age/race open. Drive up or take a train!! Serious only. ☎ 72629

S&M Top, Bear, 50, Trains Boys!
You: 20's, In-shape, any race. Pluses: shorts, swimmers, gymnas, Asian, novice. Bondage, TT, CBT, hotwax, spankings, shaving. Limits respected and expanded. Take it like a man! ☎ 72629

Servant...
Polite, courteous man is dutiful and eager to please a masterful man with out question or exception. ☎ 72630

"Spread That Ass!"
GWM 38yo, 158#, 5'10", uncut, low hanging balls, red hair, ISO butt to eat and piss to drink. Kinky man seeking others. ☎ 72631

Smooth Submissive Wanted
SWM, 38, blonde, smooth, gymnaed in Pacific Heights, seeks submissive, smooth, boyish boyfriend, 18-28, for p/s/boy sex slave, verbal abuse and humiliation. No ballroom dancing. ☎ 72646

Daytime-Asshole Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! ☎ 72647

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Look who's back

Blasts from the past Enya, PJ Harvey, Paul Simon

by Gregg Shapiro

The public has a relatively short attention span. Nevertheless, U2 and Radiohead took three years between studio albums. If you don't count the ill-fated stage musical *The Capeman*, Paul Simon took ten years between studio discs. Enya and PJ Harvey took four and two years, respectively. Were these new albums worth the wait? Yes and no.

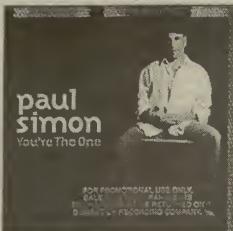
I'll never forget the first time I heard the song "The Celts" from Enya's 1986 self-titled major-label debut. I'd never heard anything like it. This was at a time before Celtic music was becoming popular, and the popularity of New Age music was just beginning to peak. I never would have predicted that the former member of Clannad would have achieved the level of success that she did, but Enya proved me wrong. Songs such as "Orinoco Flow," "Caribbean Blue," "Book of Days" and "Anywhere Is" were certified hits.

Unfortunately, Enya's ability to



be innovative seems to be a thing of the past. One of the complaints about the Irish singer's later albums was that everything started to sound the same. Sadly, the same can be said for most of *A Day Without Rain* (Reprise), on which Enya once again worked with longtime producer Nicky Ryan. One song is indistinguishable from the next, which might raise the question of whether or not she might be better off seeking a different person to produce her next album.

It feels strange to say this, but I am old enough to remember Paul Simon when he was one half of



Simon & Garfunkel. His solo career has lasted longer than his career as a member of a duo, which might account for the unevenness of his output. Sure, *Graceland* is considered to be one of the most important albums of the 1980s. Personally, I think that 1982's *Hearts & Bones* is his best album. *You're the One* (Warner Brothers), Simon's latest album, doesn't come close to either of those albums, but it does have its moments. "Darling Lorraine" shows that Simon hasn't lost his knack for story songs, while incorporating the complex rhythms that the diminutive singer-songwriter pursued and perfected on *Graceland* and *Rhythm of the Saints*. The title track is a rhythmic number that inspires a reserved exuberance. The album's centerpiece, "Senorita With a Necklace of Tears," comes closest to recapturing the songwriting grace of Simon's past.

But the embarrassing "Pigs, Sheep and Wolves" should be avoided at all costs.

U2000

I was in college when U2's first domestic album, *Boy*, was released, and I can remember dancing to the song "I Will Follow" many nights in a club called Spit that used to be across the street from Fenway Park in Boston. Many years later, I saw the band perform live during their concert spectacular tour in support of their album *Pop*. I've been listening to U2 for 20 years and didn't mind their forays into more experimental electronic music. The new album *All That You Can't Leave Behind* (Interscope) still has the Edge's trademark guitar sound ("Beautiful Day," "Walk On"), Bono's heartfelt (and occasionally gushy) vocals ("Stuck in a Moment," "In a Little While"), and even some remnants of the electronic sound in which they dabbed ("Elevation," "New York"). It's nice to hear the way all of these elements come together on one cohesive album.

Gorgeous alienation: what else did you expect from Thom Yorke and his fellow members of Radiohead? There were early signs of what we might expect from the eagerly anticipated album *Kid A* (Capitol). *The Bends* had mo-

ments of difficult beauty. That's why *OK Computer*, as brilliant as it was, wasn't that much of a surprise. So there aren't as many blistering guitar parts. It's amazing what you can do with a synthesizer. Besides, how can you ignore the askew beauty of "Everything in its Right Place," "How To Disappear Completely," "Morning Bell," or "Motion Picture Soundtrack"? You want guitars? Stand up and salute "The National Anthem," "Optimistic" or "In Limbo." Otherwise, let yourself get lost in the twisted postpop terrain of Radiohead's musical landscape.

If you weren't gunning for Patti Smith's *Gung Ho* album from this year, then you might want to take a listen to PJ Harvey's approximation of a Patti Smith album on her new disc *Stories from the Sea* (Island). Easily her most accessible album, *Stories* contains Harvey's most accomplished vocals alongside her best songwriting. Tracks such as "A Place Called Home," "Good Fortune," "Beautiful Feeling," "You Said Something," "Kamikaze" and "Horses in my Dreams" rank among the best work she's done. The duet with Radiohead's Thom Yorke on "This Mess We're In" is the best vocal pairing since k.d. lang and Andy Bell teamed up on "No More Tears (Enough Is Enough)." ▼

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Queer films 2000

◀ page 28

as a pot-addled professor) leads a confused young writing student, James Leer (Tobey Maguire), who does an astonishing *tour de force* as a sheepish dog-slaying trickster, a guileless Eve Harrington whose deadpan delivery of lines lets all kinds of lies fall off his tongue) to the Holy Grail of suicidal movie stardom: the jacket worn by Marilyn Monroe the day she married baseball great Joe DiMaggio. In a world where few good deeds go unpunished, Grady's selfless act of mentoring soon has a body count: a lecherous gay book editor (Robert Downey, Jr., whose seduction of Maguire is alone worth the price of admission), a six-foot tall transvestite, a pregnant university chancellor, a 2,600-page unfinished novel, a dead dog and a tuba. Perhaps the one truly adult comedy of 2000, *Wonder Boys* is pro-recreational drugs, gender-friendly, and a real treat for lovers of all persuasions.

7. No One Sleeps A liberated and very stubborn gay German takes up his late father's quest to solve the mystery of how AIDS spread so rapidly through queerdom. Stefan, after giving a paper at a San Francisco medical conference, finds his work and love life dangerously complicated by an opera-loving serial killer who is offing HIV-positive men. German director Jochen Hick constructs a funny/sexy noir out of Stefan's increasingly distracted investigation through a labyrinth of SF S&M dungeons, fast-lane parties and backroom bars, with a pit stop at the Opera House. Everywhere Stefan goes — in cab, bars, and the hallways of his seedy Tenderloin hotel — Puccini's "Nessun dorma" aria is playing. The enchantingly boyish Tom Wlaschiha gives a focused and very English-friendly performance as Stefan, fueled by drugs, coffee, and very

little sleep, follows his nose for the truth and his lust for a crazy leather queen. A compelling mystery set against the background of today's medical headlines, *No One Sleeps* is most satisfying as a journey of self-discovery — a small, smart film that deserves an American Oscar.

8. The Broken Hearts Club One of the first gay comedy/romances to cross over the great gay/straight box office divide, Greg Berlanti's bittersweet look at 20something West Hollywood highlights the importance of male "sisterhood" — how a group of six friends manage to stay emotionally afloat through a maddening series of romantic mishaps. Particularly strong are Timothy Olyphant's portrayal of a young photographer who allows an affair with a charming young newbie to jump-start his own maturation; Matt McGrath's nuanced enactment of half of an ex-lovers/fuck-buddy couple who can neither commit nor let go; and John Mahoney's tough/sweet "daddy figure" of a restaurant owner who combines softball, strong cigars and bad drag to help his "boys" grow up. A savvy/intelligent winner from the executive producer of *Dawson's Creek*.

9. Full Blast and Revoir Julie Two offbeat French Canadian features that give a North-of-the-Border perspective on the dangers of combining sex and friendship. *Full Blast* follows the misadventures of a trio of small-town mill workers whose jobs, rock band and personal relationships all implode during the course of a bitter strike. The film demonstrates why casual sex can be such a slippery slope in a community with too many barely buried secrets. A nice look at the short putt between gay and straight identity for many denizens of the world of one-night-stand rock bands.

An obsessively intimate if offbeat romantic comedy, director Jean Crepeau's *Revoir Julie* (*Julie and Me*) depicts what happens

when blonde Juliet (the perky Stephanie Morgenstern) is determined to renew a 15-year-lapsed friendship with blonde Julie (the smoldering Dominique Leduc), a friendship suddenly derailed by an impulsive kiss. An adroit exploration of the contrasting dispositions of the heroines makes this an emotionally challenging date-night treat.

10. Blossoms of Fire and Girlfight Two very different looks at women taking on the patriarchy. Maureen Gosling's exuberantly upbeat documentary about the matriarchal society surviving in a small state in southern Mexico is a social realist travlogue on gender roles in the style of a latter-day Orson Welles, with the philosophy of a feminist Hemingway and the palette of the great muralist Diego Rivera. The film is almost drunk with color, as if those glorious reds were visual Prozac to ward away the blues.

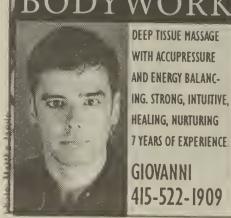
Michelle Rodriguez makes a face a couple of times during *Girlfight* that reminded me of an old Disney cartoon: her nostrils flare, her eyes blaze like lumps of coal, she's about to whack somebody in the head. *Girlfight*, Karyn Kusama's spirited tale on a Red Hook, Brooklyn high school girl's transformation into a featherweight boxer, is no cartoon, but the best of the current renaissance in boxing films. As Diana shifts her once-unfocused rage into the ring, she kicks some serious butt, much of it cute male butt, in a film that is in no way an orgy of male-bashing. In a lovely irony, the fight to end the film comes between the characters with the sweetest relationship. It doesn't seem at all wrong when fate dictates that Diana and Adrian fight. The suspense comes from whether love can endure combat — it brings homoeroticism into a heterosexual relationship. These are lovers who will fight an opponent they know almost as well as themselves. ▼

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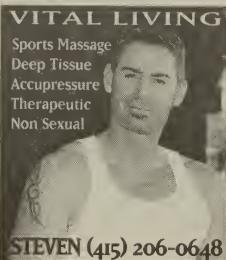


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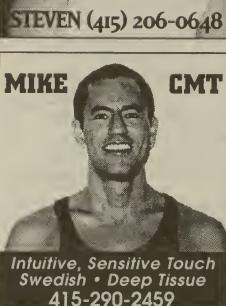
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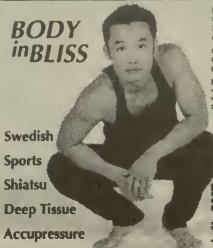
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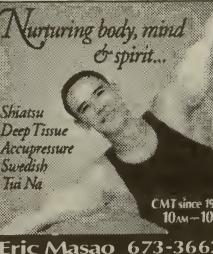
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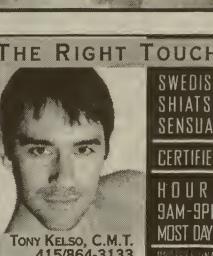
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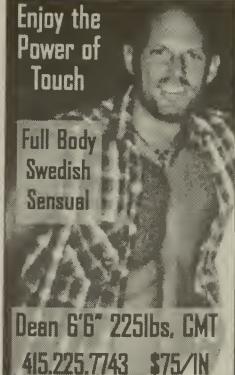
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Extremely handsome, green eyed, dark haired, 35yr. old Greek. Amazing rock hard body. 5'9", 175# 44" c, 30" w, 16" arms, Furry chest. Hard, tight, butt than can handle whatever you're packin. Kick back service for xtra hung. Please, serious only. Peter 595-3643 \$175

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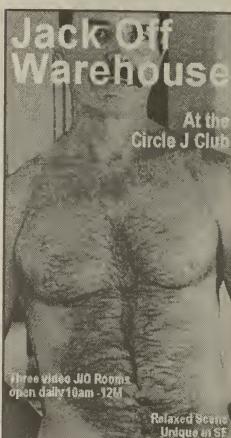
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 - Money Order
 - Visa
 - MasterCard
 - American Express
- Minimum \$10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number
Expiration Date
Signature
Name

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Name	Telephone	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Number of Issues	Classification	Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
SF, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144
OR E-MAIL:
baradv@aol.com



Dear San Francisco Voter:

Since the thorough defeat of Prop N, which would have made it impossible for renters to ever buy the apartments they live in, we have received thousands of letters of support from San Francisco tenants for increased affordable home ownership opportunities – a “Tenant Ownership Program.” This “T.O.P.” program would allow tenants-in-place to buy the apartments they live in, while protecting tenants who choose to continue to rent.

Many of our new supervisors already support beginning the serious dialogue to create this exciting opportunity for affordable home ownership for tenants. Let’s face it – the only way most San Franciscans will ever be able to realize the benefits of home ownership is through the initiation of such a dialog. Starting in January, we will meet with our elected officials to begin the discussion about this important issue.

If you would like to join us in this effort, or like thousands of others in San Francisco think you may someday be interested in buying the apartment you live in, please clip and mail back the response card below. We will keep you informed about these and other issues that affect all of us. We look forward to listening to other voices for reasonable change. In the interim, please continue to urge our elected representatives to make this a T.O.P. priority.

All the best,

Bartholomew Murphy
President, Coalition for Better Housing



YES! I want to be informed about the T.O.P. Program and the issues that affect my home. Please add me to your mailing list to receive future CBH updates.
CBH will never sell or trade address information to solicitors or others.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

I am a homeowner.

I am a renter/future homeowner.

BAR 12-00

Please mail to the Coalition for Better Housing, 1255 Post Street, Box 914, San Francisco, CA 94109